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# THE TIMES

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Lonely fun: a boy, well wrapped up against the bank holiday chill, determinedly pursues beach excavations at Dymchurch, Kent, yesterday. The forecast for today is brighter

## King opens Expo 92

King Juan Carlos opened Spain's Expo '92 world fair as rockets soared into the sky, and 5,000 doves and hundreds of coloured balloons were released. Just across the Guadalquivir river from the Expo site, the bells of the Giralda, the 274ft Moorish tower of Seville cathedral, led 37 other city churches in peals of celebration.

The king said that Expo '92, in which more than 100 countries were taking part, was the biggest exhibition in history, for its size, number of participants, and diversity of activities planned. Page 9

## Short shrift

Britain's Nigel Short last night moved into the lead in his world chess championship semi-final against Anatoly Karpov in Linares, Spain, by inflicting on the former world champion of the most rapid defeat he has ever suffered. Page 6

## Syria foiled

Syria cancelled its attempt to break United Nations sanctions by flying a passenger jet to Libya after Cyprus, Greece, Egypt and Tunisia refused to give the plane permission to fly over their territories. Page 7

## Steel hopes

A glimmer of hope has arisen for some of the jobs due to be lost with the closure in September of British Steel's Ravenscraig mill near Glasgow, with the news that an American corporation, Nucor, is visiting the site. Page 15

## £2m car thief

A teenage car thief, who caused damage estimated at £2.2 million to 400 cars during a year-long car crime spree, is expected to be released next month after having served a ten-month youth custody sentence. Page 14

## Export riches

A record total of 127 Queen's Awards for export achievement have been announced, together with 38 winners of awards for technological achievement. Page 15

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## Teachers reject all-out battle with Patten

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE NATIONAL Union of Teachers yesterday backed away from a confrontation with John Patten, the new education secretary, by rejecting a policy of non-cooperation with the government's proposals for staff appraisals in schools.

Moderates in the profession's biggest union turned the tables on leftwingers and achieved a return to its policy of accepting appraisal as long as it does not influence pay, promotion or disciplinary proceedings.

Although delegates to the union's annual conference in Blackpool had been persuaded by the left to reject a large majority, the executive's moderate line on appraisal, they later rejected a campaign of non-cooperation. Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, said that the result was an excellent one, as a recommendation not to co-operate with the government's scheme was a recipe for chaos. All state school teachers are to be subject to appraisal by 1995. A boycott would have disrupted the process at its most sensitive stage.

Mr McAvoy said that there

had been a remarkable turnaround in voting. A card vote taken on Sunday had rejected the leadership's approach by 100,000 to 67,000, a majority of 33,000. This had been turned yesterday into a victory for the moderates by 97,000 to 72,000, a majority of 25,000. Intense lobbying took place overnight, and yesterday a succession of executive members emphasised the dangers inherent in a boycott.

One of them, Malcolm Horne, said: "We will be asking local officers to tear up agreements they have sweated over, and which are the envy of other unions."

The decision will be a significant help to Mr Patten, who will have to implement the policy of compulsory teacher assessment laid down by his predecessor, Kenneth Clarke. Ministers see the appraisal of teachers' performance by senior staff as a key element in the drive to improve standards. They have committed £24 million to the first two years of the scheme.

All state school teachers are to be subject to appraisal by 1995. A boycott would have disrupted the process at its most sensitive stage.

## UN tries to fix Delhi flight for Najibullah

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BENON Saven, the United Nations special envoy in Kabul, pleaded last night for a ceasefire between the beleaguered Afghan government and Muslim guerrillas as he tried to negotiate a safe passage out of the country for the ousted President Najibullah.

Diplomats confirmed that Dr Najibullah was in hiding in a UN compound in Kabul. "He is well. He is active. He seems to be all right," said an ambassador who has seen Dr Najibullah several times

since he was deposed. Earlier this week, the chief government spokesman in Delhi said that Dr Najibullah was expected to fly there last night. But he did not know when he would arrive.

Mr Saven also appealed for a general amnesty and an opening of roads so the United Nations could distribute 40,000 tons of wheat donated to overcome food shortages.

Ousted leader, page 7

Salary fear, page 2  
Can teachers pass?, page 10  
Leading article, page 11

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Reports, pages 30-32

## Tribute to star catches a billion in its beams

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

FREDDIE Mercury, the flamboyant rock star who died last year from Aids at the age of 45, last night drew as ecstatic an audience as any in his lifetime when 72,000 devotees packed Wembley Stadium in a tribute to the frontman of the rock group Queen.

The £25 per head charity concert, expected to raise more than £1 million, was conceived in his honour to promote Aids awareness.

The crowd saw a video of Elizabeth Taylor in which she asked young people to practise safer sex and not to share needles if taking drugs. Miss Taylor was due to take the stage later to speak of "an extraordinary rock star who rushed across our cultural landscape like a comet shooting across the sky". Miss Taylor, 60, president of the American Foundation for Aids Research, said of Mercury: "The bright light of his talent

still exhilarates us even now that his life has been so cruelly extinguished."

The concert, screened live by BBC2 and broadcast on Radio 1, featured the surviving members of Queen, Brian May, Roger Taylor and John Deacon, who last played at Wembley Stadium with Mercury in 1986, together with George Michael, Annie Lennox, Paul Young, David Bowie, Elton John, Seal, Roger Daltry and other stars, live and by satellite link, who combined a variety of the group's hits, including *Bohemian Rhapsody* and *We Will Rock You*.

The three-and-a-half hour spectacular was beamed to a television and radio audience of up to one billion people in over 70 countries, a figure to rival the biggest of all previous music programmes including *Live Aid*. The show required 4,000 miles of cable, 30 tons of scaffolding, 5,000 lights, 600 microphones, 500 speakers, and, reportedly, enough power to run a town the size of

Luton. The stage set took five days to build. In all, 98 artists were on the bill.

The 72,000 tickets were sold out in three hours before the star-studded line-up was announced. Touts were selling tickets at up to ten times their face value, in spite of warnings to fans from Harvey Goldsmith, the concert organiser, not to buy them. All profits will go to help Aids projects worldwide.

"We're here to celebrate the life, the work and the dreams of one Freddie Mercury," guitarist Brian May said. Then his colleague Roger Taylor stepped forward — dwarfed on the huge stage, flanked by twin video screens and topped off by three symbolic Phoenix birds — to draw attention to the 100,000 red ribbons distributed to everyone there as a reminder of Aids.

Diary, page 10  
Leading article, page 11



Taylor: asked fans to practise safer sex

## Driver killed in motor-racing crash

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

A RACING driver died and several spectators were hurt yesterday during a race at Thruxton, Hampshire. Dutch-born Marcel Gerardus-Albers, 25, was trapped in the wreckage of his Formula Three car, which disintegrated as it smashed into crash barriers, spraying debris into the holiday crowd.

It is believed that the car touched another as it overtook. The safety barriers held firm and, although there were minor injuries to spectators, none was seriously hurt in the accident at the chicane.

It was one of a number of incidents to mar the Easter Monday holiday. A 26-year-old woman died when her van she was driving collided head-on with a car which appeared to lose control at Hythe, near Southampton, as it came round a corner. Anna Dampney was following her boy friend, Mark Derrick, as they returned a van which they had hired to move furniture into their new home in Lympstone. Mr Derrick tried unsuccessfully to rescue her.

Six people were hurt when a fairground ride sheered from its support and crashed into bystanders at Pleasureland, Southport. Five teenagers

ages and a middle-aged man were treated in hospital.

A baby girl was flown to hospital from a Channel ferry

after falling ill between Amsterdam and Plymouth. A coastguard rescue helicopter was scrambled to the Danish-registered ferry *Winston Churchill* after the master radioed that the 11-month-old girl was suffering fits. The child, her mother and the ship's doctor were winched aboard the helicopter. 13 miles off Portland Bill, Dorset.

A rock climber slipped from a cliff face and fell 200ft into the sea near St Govan's Head, Dyfed, dragging his son with him. Dave Thompson and Mark, 17, from Rubery, near Birmingham, swam ashore and were flown to hospital suffering from hypothermia.

A family escaped after being trapped in their smoke-filled flat in Ivybridge, Devon, by a gas explosion which demolished the shop next door. A collapsed wall blocked the escape route for Andrew Stephens, his wife Wendy and their two young children after the blast, which caused extensive damage to

Continued on page 14, col 3

**Prime Suspect**, starring Helen Mirren, proved good TV can also be profitable Life & Times Page 1

## NURSERY CONTROL



Forget Mary Poppins. Today naughty nannies need a register Life & Times Page 4

## DRAGON CONTROL



St George slays bulls in Russia Life & Times Page 5

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Classroom assessment system raises fears of crude salary judgments being introduced through the back door

## Union urges teachers to resist pay by performance

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION REPORTER

TEACHERS should resist any move to introduce performance related pay through the "back door" of the new appraisal system, leaders of the second largest teaching union said yesterday.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said that his union had always been suspicious of the system, which became compulsory in September. "We've been warning teachers for six years that it would be used to assess pay and for disciplinary purposes."

Maurice Littlewood, the union's new president, said in his inaugural address to its annual conference in Scarborough that appraisal was more likely to be used as a crude indicator for performance related pay than as a tool in the development of teachers' careers.

"For those who see our schools as competing units in a market-driven units, the management style of rewards and punishments may seem desirable," he said. "I see no future in the enhancement of professionalism by stiffening the stick and gilding the carrot." Teachers should be paid on a collegiate basis within each school and rewarded as a

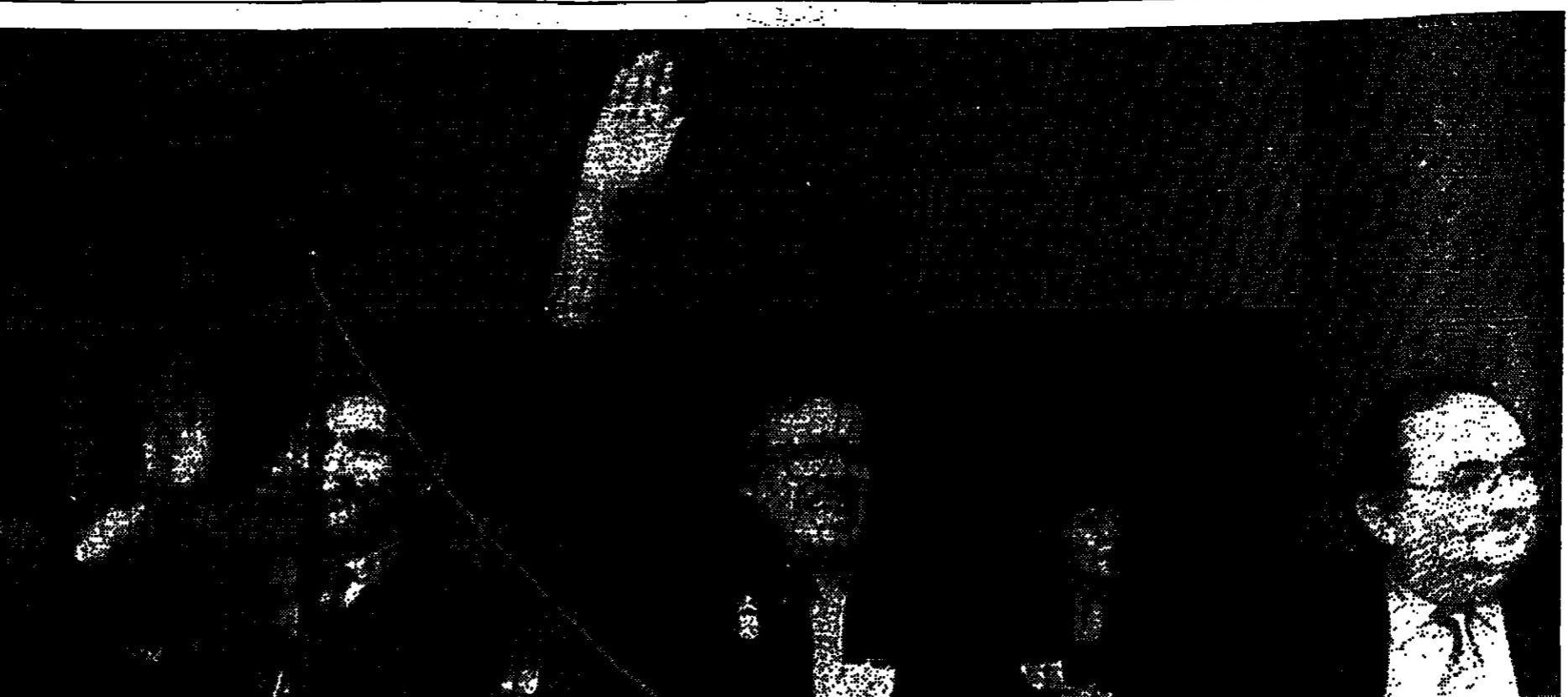
group for improvements in standards, he said.

The union will consider a series of motions on appraisal all this week, including one proposing a national boycott of teachers' assessments until appropriate guidelines and resources have been negotiated nationally.

Mr Littlewood said that the 1988 Education Reform Act had emasculated education authorities and left teachers the victims of "initiative fatigue". The profession was straining under the workload of the national curriculum. "Teachers can no longer be expected to do the impossible," he said. "We can no longer pretend that we can plait sawdust and knit treacle on demand."

In an attempt to trump the parent's charter, Mr Littlewood called for a charter which would spell out government obligations and teacher responsibilities, and free education from party political prejudice. "If teachers wholeheartedly seize this charter initiative, they will have an opportunity of putting a professional dimension on proposals for their own future and that of the service," he said.

NUT backs down, page 1  
Janet Daley, page 10  
Leading article, page 11



Count me in: Malcolm Horne, NUT executive member, centre, with general secretary Doug McAvoy, right, acknowledging applause in Scarborough yesterday

## Schools cannot ignore appraisals

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TEACHERS in state schools are to have their performance appraised by the middle of 1995. The process has already begun in many parts of England and Wales.

What concerns the NUT and the other teacher associations is that a system designed to enhance professional development will also be used to determine performance related pay, and may be brought into promotion and disciplinary procedures.

Education ministers say that, although there will be

no automatic link between pay and appraisal, head teachers should consider reports when framing recommendations to governors.

With the government determined to introduce performance related pay and the teachers' pay review body unable to suggest a basis for assessing individuals, appraisal reports would be an obvious starting point. Head teachers, who would recommend pay, could hardly ignore the conclusions of appraisals.

Teachers will be assessed by department heads or head teachers every two years. Having been twice observed in the classroom for at least an hour, they will be set targets at an interview. A review of progress will take place in the following year.

• Appraisal systems and performance payments are increasingly popular among companies (Robin Young writes). A survey by Alan Jones & Associates, a salary and benefit specialist, of 185 firms with turnovers from £1 million to £3,400 million, found that two thirds related salaries to appraisals and a tenth had introduced a pay-for-performance system within the past year.

The atmosphere of confusion is exacerbated by a shortage of charismatic moderate leaders. The union's dominant person-

## Moderates ahead on points but anything could happen

Doug McAvoy, leader of the NUT, takes a ringside seat at the left and far left slug it out, John O'Leary reports

ality, its general secretary Doug McAvoy, sits Spinifex-like on the platform, condemned to silence until the last session today. Last year he used the occasion to accuse left wingers of ignoring ordinary teachers' views. "There is a hard core who return with the same platitudes, the same call for action that will not be supported by members, which will alienate public support," he said. Such haranguing may not be necessary today, but Mr McAvoy is reluctant to mince words.

Now 51, Mr McAvoy faces re-election in 1994 with little opposition in sight.

Although he refuses to be drawn on his political allegiance, he remains the union's leading moderate.

Without him to espouse the moderate line, the Broad Left has no obvious leader.

George Wiskin, the group's secretary and a Staffordshire head teacher, is not a prominent conference speaker,

and so duties are shared among a group which often

seems as remote from most

delegates as the left wingers are from the average teacher. Although moderates hold sway on the NUT's executive, they have had to resort to procedural manoeuvres at times to control the conference. It took two debates to persuade a majority of delegates that returning to established policy on appraisal was preferable to an unachievable negotiating position which included allowing teachers to choose the person who would assess them. Malcolm Horne, for the executive, warned the conference that such a demand would attract public scorn.

The groups pushing the

more militant line are the

Socialist Teachers Alliance and the Campaign for a

Democratic Fighting Union, both hard left coalitions confined to the NUT. Leaders of both have taken an uncharacteristically low profile at a time when some are unlikely to support strikes except to defend their own jobs.

The Socialist Teachers Alliance, with ten executive members, draws support

from the left of the Labour Party and the Socialist Workers Party. Its strength lies in London. Conference supporters tend to be younger delegates, such as Andy Dixon, the executive member from Greater Manchester who insisted yesterday that a boycott of appraisal would improve state schools.

Although less numerous on the conference floor, the Campaign for a Democratic Fighting Union has captured two vital NUT posts, with Mary Huxford as deputy general secretary and Ian Murch as treasurer. Richard Rieser, leader of the militant Hackney Association, in east London, is the main conference voice of a group which is less open than the Alliance about its political links and frequently more extreme.

Neither of the groups can claim substantial membership among the NUT's 183,000 members, who could be expected to repudiate most of the left's calls to arms if the conference did not do so first. Only in the local disputes which are occurring with increasing regularity is there any evidence of the militant attitudes commonplace in Blackpool this weekend.

## Karaoke finds old is best

BY NICHOLAS WATT

WHAT kind of people are foolhardy enough to hurl their jacket in the middle of a bar and grab a microphone to sing along to their favourite song? Certainly not dashing young folk, judging by the first Top Ten chart of Britain's most popular karaoke hits, which has a distinctly middle-aged feel.

At the top of the Music Week chart is that old trouper Frank Sinatra with *My Way*. He is followed by Gloria Gaynor's *I Will Survive*, the Righteous Brothers' *You've Lost That Loving Feeling* and *Yesterday* by the Beatles.

Steve Lindsey, general manager of Island Music, which publishes karaoke songs, said: "The list does seem to be very 1960s. I must admit I was very surprised to see Jeff Beck's *Hi Ho Silver Lining* in the top ten. I think the chart does say something about the age of your average karaoke singer, although his such as *My Way* do appeal to all ages from birth."

When karaoke singing was introduced to Britain in the 1980s its appeal hardly stretched beyond a couple of central London bars where uninhibited Japanese businessmen could unwind after work just like the folks back home. The British were mildly amused.

Now even the most difficult Englishman will grab the microphone for a raw display of his singing talents. Karaoke is such a routine part of pub entertainment that Mike Mason, owner of the karaoke hire company, MPM Entertainments, said: "It's up there with the dartboard in pub entertainment."

There are more than 10,000 venues with karaoke machines and there is even a National Karaoke Academy. Most musicians are quite happy to allow drunken amateurs to sing along to their songs.

## Victims of arson named

A nurse was one of five people killed when an arsonist struck at a birthday party, police said yesterday.

Mabel Smith Roberts, 45, from Colwyn Bay, Chwyd, arrived in Hove, East Sussex, the day before fire broke out in the house. She died when she tried to jump 60ft to safety as flames engulfed the third-floor flat early on Saturday. Police last night identified another victim as Andrew Manns, 29, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

The dead included the host, Tim Sharpe, 28. Two victims, both men, are still unidentified. The blaze is thought to have begun when someone ignited a sofa on the landing below the flat.

Detectives interviewed two men believed to have left the party before the sofa was ignited but remain anxious to trace two others. They were continuing house-to-house enquiries. One man is about 5ft 10in and aged 35, the other is 5ft 7in, lean, tanned and in his late twenties.

## Pair remanded

A couple were remanded in custody yesterday, accused of harbouring Stephen Miller, 36, a murder suspect nicknamed "The Caveman". Karen Weaver and Liam Mellin of Barry, South Glamorgan, appeared before a special sitting of Neath magistrates. Mr Miller disappeared last month after Adrian Hughes, 28, a former supermarket manager, was found battered and stabbed.

## Police car crash

A patrol car policeman was injured yesterday after a hitch hiker on the M1 who refused to leave the motorway was being taken to a police station. The police car crashed into a garden wall at Hendon, northwest London. Brian Spencer, 25, unemployed and of no fixed address, is due in court today accused of having an offensive weapon, a spray can, and causing grievous bodily harm.

## Salary deal lures graduates

THE growing number of graduates flocking to the teaching profession has been widely attributed to the bite of the recession but the improved salary structure which comes into force this month is likely to encourage the trend, Matthew d'Ancona writes.

A pay rise of 7.5 per cent was awarded to the 420,000 teachers in England and Wales in line with the first recommendations of the School Teachers' Review Body established as part of John Major's promise to

raise teachers' living standards.

The classroom teacher now earns £18,200 an average of while a graduate with a good honours degree will enter the profession on, at least £12,300 outside London, rising to £14,200 in the capital. Primary heads will earn about £25,500, with the maximum salary for the head teacher of a large secondary creeping above £50,000 for the first time.

The deal, which was well ahead of inflation, surprised many, but discontent still runs deep among teachers, whose pay has fallen 7.5 per cent in relation to non-manual workers in the private sector in ten years.

Many local authorities fear they will be unable to pay for the new settlement, which will cost £765 million with only £60 million of extra funding from the government.

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers argues that the underfunded pay rises will cause hundreds of redundancies.

## Docklands protesters sue group for £10m

By DOUGLAS BROOM  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 1,000 people living in the East End of London are to seek a total of £10 million in compensation for the disruption of their lives caused by the building of a link road in London Docklands since 1989.

Solicitors acting for residents' groups in Tower Hamlets have said that they had decided to proceed after the failure of an appeal by the London Docklands Development Corporation against eight convictions for causing noise pollution.

Knightsbridge crown court last week upheld the convictions which were secured by Tower Hamlets Council. The development corporation said that it was considering a further appeal but would not comment further.

Sally Moore, a solicitor acting for the residents, said the court's ruling that the corporation was legally responsible for the actions of contractors had opened the way for the compensation claims.

Local people had been under "incredible stress" since work began on building the Limehouse link road which is designed to improve connections between Docklands and the rest of London. They had suffered respiratory problems caused by dust and stress related illnesses caused by excessive noise, she said.

"Our clients have been living on top of one of Europe's largest building sites for over three years. They have had to endure massive disruption to the quality of their lives due to noise levels, dust, dirt and pollution."

With seeking damages of up to £10,000 a person would be served on the London Docklands Development Corporation within the next fortnight, she said.

## Unions warn of civil unrest in home rule fight

By KERRY GILL

THE president of the Scottish TUC yesterday warned that civil disobedience could erupt to coincide with the European summit in Edinburgh later this year as a way of羞ing the government into granting home rule.

Jane McKay called on unions affiliated to the STUC to organise a "strategic event" when the European party of government meet in December. "We must have a planned strategy for that summit. And if that means 'living a little dangerously', as one of our most respected Scottish politicians has suggested, then perhaps we should be prepared to pick up that mantle," she said.

Ms McKay's remarks, at the start of the STUC's conference in Perth, were interpreted as a call for some form of civil disobedience, a strategy that has received backing among opposition parties and the Scottish Constitutional Convention. In her presidential address she said: "Our claim for constitutional



Tea break: Jane McKay, right, STUC president, with member Carmen McAtee back a demand to John Major that the government holds a multi-option referendum on Scotland's constitution.

With district elections taking place next month, Mr Salmond will be keen to emphasise a split between the Labour party and those who would want to involve the SNP in talks on a referendum. It was, he said, Labour that sabotaged his expectation to address the STUC debate. "Obviously the Labour party seem to be extremely

anxious about the support and currency that the ideas I would put forward would have on the floor of the conference," he said.

Meanwhile, Britain's two biggest unions have launched a campaign to secure better training for all workers.

Too many firms regard training as a gift "for the privileged few" or offer barely adequate schemes, the Transport and General Workers' Union and the GMB general union said. The unions have

drafted a model training agreement which will feature in all major negotiations.

The draft agreement provides for induction training for new workers and a minimum of five days' training or education each year for all workers.

John Edmonds, GMB general secretary, said: "Training is an important benefit for employees and it should be negotiated across the bargaining table just like holidays, sick pay and pensions."

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There are more than 10,000 venues with karaoke machines and there is even a National Karaoke Academy. Most musicians are quite happy to allow drunken amateurs to sing along to their songs.

## Flighty birds leave amorous albatross alone

By KERRY GILL



An albatross, but not

lovelorn like Albert. Albert was first noticed in his adult plumage off the Bass Rock in Lothian 25 years ago. He may have decided he would have better

luck among the vast seabird colonies of Shetland where the females might be impressed by his 7ft wingspan. He duly appeared at Herma Ness, the storm-washed northern tip of Shetland, in the spring of 1972. Twitchers have come from all over Britain, the Continent and America to see him and the islanders grew so fond of the lovelorn bird that they named him Albert.

It appears that he attempts the occasional pass at local gannets, the birds closest in size and appearance to an albatross, although his desire has not been reciprocated. Kevin Osborne, editor of the *Shetland Bird Report*, said that Albert dabbled in foreplay but with no obvious results. "He has tried to court with the gannets moving his beak and flapping his wings in a pseudo-mating display but he won't breed with a gannet. He will be seriously frustrated."

Steve Gantlett, of the Bird Information Service, was also pessimistic about Albert's chances after a quarter of a century. "It is possible there is more than one black-browed albatross in the North Atlantic but the chances of them meeting up in the vastness of the ocean have to be remote."

Pete Ellis, a Shetland ornithologist who works for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, doubted that

Albert fancied the gannets and reckoned that he grew angry whenever the smaller seabirds came too close. Mr Ellis said Albert spent most of his time sitting forlornly at the foot of the cliffs fishing for squid.

It will probably be of little consolation to Albert to learn that another bird, albeit a lot smaller, is languishing without a mate at the other end of Britain. The 10in Ancient Murrelet on Lundy island in the Bristol Channel, is also looking for a partner similarly unaware that true love lies on the other side of the world — in this case the Aleutian Islands in the North Pacific.

Perhaps someone should introduce them.

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# Sister of man wanted in murder hunt is charged

By CRAIG SETON

THE sister of one of three men being sought in connection with the shooting of an army recruitment sergeant in Derby appeared in court yesterday charged with impeding the apprehension of a murder suspect.

Kathleen Mary Magee, 30, of Derby, who appeared before a special sitting of the city's magistrates' court, was accused under the Prevention of Terrorism Act of failing to disclose information that she knew or believed might be of material assistance in the apprehension, prosecution or conviction of a person for an offence involving terrorism between April 13 and 16.

She was also charged under the Criminal Law Act with performing an act intended to impede the apprehension or prosecution of a person she knew or believed to be guilty of an arrestable offence, namely murder.

The court was searched by police with dogs before the hearing and people entering the building were searched. Miss Magee was remanded into police custody for three days. There was no application for bail and reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Miss Magee's brother, Joseph Magee, 26, is one of three Irishmen that Derbyshire police have said they want to question in connection with the murder of Sergeant Michael Newman, 34, who was shot dead on Monday last week. A republican terrorist group, the Irish National Liberation Army, has claimed responsibility.

Mr Magee, originally from Armagh, is being sought with two other men, Declan Duffy, 19, and Anthony Gorman, 22, both from Belfast.

Patrick Magee, an older brother of the wanted man, said yesterday that he and the woman he lives with would take legal action against the police after their arrest on Friday during the investigation of the Derby shooting. Leicestershire police said that any complaint would be taken seriously.

Mr Magee, 35, claimed that he sustained a bruised eye when he was arrested in the Nag's Head public house in Swithland, Leicestershire, 50 yards from the home he shares with Angie Wild, 21, who was also detained.

Steve Newcombe, their solicitor, said: "We state for the record that Patrick last had contact with his brother Joseph some 17 years ago. It is a similar length of time since he last contacted his sister."

It emerged yesterday that about a year ago Joseph Magee worked for a short time as a stable lad for the trainer Bob Manning at his stables at Winterbourne, near Bristol. Mr Manning said yesterday: "I have told the police all I know and I have given them some very valuable information."

## Remand over boy's killing

A JOBLESS man was remanded in custody for seven days yesterday, charged with murdering Matthew Robinson, aged 4, at his parents' lodgings in Plymouth, Devon.

James Stuart Cochrane, 25, who appeared before a special sitting of Plymouth magistrates and was handcuffed to two police officers, was also charged with a serious sexual offence against the boy. He allegedly committed the offences between April 13 and 16. No bail application was made and Mr Cochrane was remanded in custody until April 27.

Matthew was found dead in bed last Wednesday morning. Mr Cochrane was formerly a lodger at the house.



Cochrane: a former lodger at house

## Shops welcome Easter sales rise

By ALISON ROBERTS

SHOP sales rose over Easter, but retailers remained cautious about the prospects for recovery.

Harrods reported a turnover of £1.3 million over the holiday period, which was about double last year's, partly because the store opened on Good Friday for the first time. A spokesman said that the shop had had an "extremely good Easter", but that it was too early to predict a substantial increase in consumer confidence. "The signs are encouraging, because spending is more steady. A few months ago it was much more unpredictable."

Anne Horton, assistant manager at the Dickens & Jones department store in Regent Street, said that trading

had been good, but not unusual. "There were a lot of people, but lots were sightseers."

Bill Whiting, marketing director of B&Q, said: "We have to remain cautious at this stage. We did very well, but we were expecting to. I think consumer confidence will pick up with the general economy, and it will be gradual. I am not sure that I trust the post-election boom predictions."

The Oxford Street branch of Next, the clothing and furnishing retailer, has seen increasing sales for the past six months. "As far as we are concerned, people are spending as much money as they used to," Marc Smith, the manager, said.

## Pong cleared for take-off

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

SHOULD passengers detect a whiff of garlic in the cabin of British Airways Boeing 737 G-BKJY booked to fly domestic shuttle routes from Heathrow today they should look to fellow travellers for the cause and not the airline.

No aircraft has been so well cleaned, deodorised and disinfected as G-BKJY and BA is confident that only the malodorous effects of someone's bank holiday indulgence will prevent it from having the most sweet smelling of take-offs. Not that the airline could have said the same last week when the jet reeked from every nook and cranny of 25 litres of concentrated garlic essence.

The plastic drum of garlic, which when diluted makes more than 1,000 litres of food additive, split as it was being unloaded from the aircraft's rear cargo compartment after being flown

in from Hamburg. Within seconds, workers were forced to leave the area as the pungent smell contaminated not only the aircraft but the entire hangar in which it was parked.

The jet was towed to a maintenance area at Heathrow and subjected to no less than 12 different steam cleaning treatments, all to no avail. A Boeing 737 is a costly piece of equipment to keep idle and as successive attempts to deodorise the aircraft failed, BA became ever more desperate to put it back into revenue earning service.

Then someone remembered Ben Matthey whose tiny firm in Petworth, West Sussex, claimed to have removed all traces of contamination from Laker Airways jets when the cabin crew began to fall mysteriously ill from the cruise ship Canberra and from several London hospitals. "When



## Shotgun man keeps woman hostage

By PAUL WILKINSON

AN ARMED man was last night holding a young woman hostage in a house more than 24 hours after her mother and a young man were shot and seriously injured in separate, but related, incidents in Co Durham.

Efforts by police negotiators to talk the 24-year-old man out of the house were going on, using a field telephone passed through an upper window.

The siege began on Sunday afternoon at a house in Darlington soon after the first shooting a few miles away on a minor road near the village of Sillington.

In that incident, Jason Ward, 20, from Darlington was wounded in the head by a single barrel shotgun. As police began dealing with the first shooting, other officers were called to a house in Lyonette Road in Darlington after reports that a woman had been shot as she ran down the front path. Pauline Rees, 43, was taken to hospital with body wounds. She is said to be "satisfactory". Thirty officers, some armed, surrounded the gunman, sealing off the area and evacuating other houses.

The man was named locally as Keith Pringle and his captive as Leanne Rees, 21. Her two children were being looked after by relatives. Police said that the gunman was known to both the injured people and to the woman being held.

## Youths pelt police with bricks

AN ATTACK on police breaking up an all-night party in a disused factory was condemned yesterday as "part of the malaise affecting our society" by the chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation.

"You've got an undisciplined society, where young people take their lead from their elders," Mike Bennett said. "We are very concerned that this type of thing may take off. These parties are more likely from now on than they were during the winter, and you have a bored youth who find their thrills in taking on police officers."

He was speaking after police were pelted with bricks and bottles early yesterday while breaking up a party attended by 1,000 people in Action Lane, Willesden, northwest London. Police moved in and made ten arrests after complaints about noise and damage to properties near by. One officer was taken to hospital with bruising but was not detained.

Mr Bennett said that under changes to policing in London, police numbers were being reduced at night.

"They have researched when the public say they need us, and that is during the day, and less during the night. That will leave us short-handed when these things take place, which is a cause for concern."

Five men will appear before Brent magistrates today charged with committing violent disorder. Scotland Yard said: "Three men will appear before Brent magistrates on June 2, on charges of obstructing police, assault on police and possession of cannabis and another two men will appear before Ealing magistrates on April 27.

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# Bank offers £20,000 after JCB raiders rip out cashpoints

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

**AN URGENT** review of security at branches of the Abbey National banking group is under way after thieves drove a JCB digger through a front window and stole a cash dispenser containing £60,000.

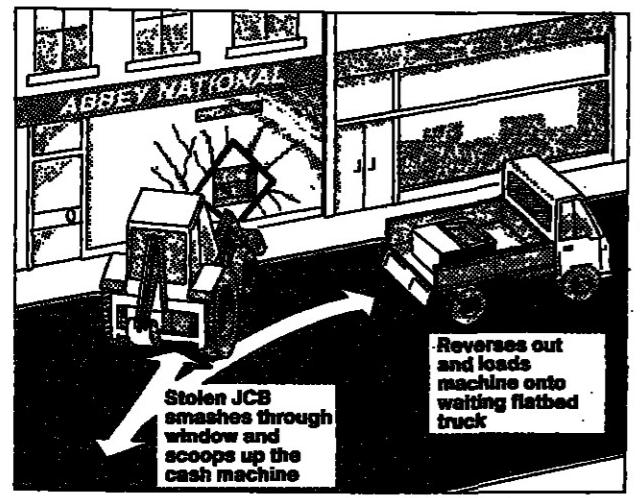
The directors of the bank have offered a £20,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of thieves who have now raided five separate branches in south London, Kent and Surrey during the past five weeks, using similar methods.

Sir Christopher Tugendhat, chairman of the Abbey National, which has seven million customers and 660 branches, would not discuss the latest robbery, at a branch in the Hempstead Valley shopping centre on the outskirts of Gillingham, Kent, early on Sunday morning. The raiders stole a digger

from a building site about a quarter of a mile away and drove it across fields to avoid a large housing estate.

It was rammed through the front window of the branch, ripping the cashpoint machine from its mountings. The raiders then scooped the machine into the digger's bucket, reversed and loaded it on to the back of a white Ford Transit truck which had been stolen the previous day from an industrial estate at Rochester.

As in the four previous raids, the thieves struck between 3am and 4am and used a stolen digger. Scotland Yard said yesterday that each raid was being treated separately, although the officials at the bank believed that only one gang was involved, because of the similarity of the raids.



## Muggers murder father

A MAN was stabbed to death and a friend wounded after they refused to hand over a leather jacket to a group of men.

Paul Carter, 24, of Walsall, West Midlands, was rushed to hospital where he later died. James Walker, 23, was stabbed repeatedly as he tried to cling on to his jacket. Last night ten men, aged between 16 and 24, were helping police with their enquiries.

The attack, on Saturday night, happened when the two men, accompanied by another, walked to a pub in Walsall. Mr Carter, who had two children, was caught and knifed in the chest. Mr Walker was stabbed in the back and suffered a punctured lung.

Det Supt Brian Davies, of Walsall police, said that the attack was totally unprovoked. "The degree of violence used was horrendous. For the sake of a second-hand leather jacket someone was prepared to murder one man and attempt to murder another. The number of wounds suggests that there was no other intention than to kill both men."

He said that the Walhouse Road and Sovereign Place area of Walsall, where the attack took place at 8.45pm, would have been busy and he appealed for witnesses to come forward.

He said the dead man, who made no attempt to fight back, managed to run only a few yards when he was overtaken by the gang, knocked to the ground and stabbed with a 5in knife. Detectives are still looking for the weapon.

Mr Carter had two daughters, aged one month and two years. He was separated from his girl friend and lived alone in a flat in Walsall.

Yesterday Mr Walker was sitting up and out of danger at Walsall Manor hospital.

## Hawk man offers reward

BY JOHN YOUNG

THE owner of two pairs of hawks stolen from aviaries three miles apart yesterday offered a £1,000 reward for their safe return.

Mark Holden, 30, a milkman, said that two American Harris hawks were stolen from the garden of his terraced house in Lytchet Matravers, Dorset, on Saturday when he was out. The burglars also broke into his home and stole electrical goods.

He then found that two young goshawks which he owned had been stolen from a friend's house at Bear Cross. The four birds were worth a total of £4,000, he said.

"I've been keeping birds for ten years and whoever stole them knew what they were doing," he said. "Both pairs of bird were stolen on the same day, which means the people must have known that one pair was being kept at a friend's house."

"I think the burglary was an afterthought. They were really after the birds. They must have had a knowledge of birds because you can't just steal hawks without them kicking up a fuss. Female hawks are very aggressive when they're breeding."

Mr Holden said he was particularly concerned for one of the birds because she was about to lay. If she was grabbed, the egg could have been broken inside her, which would be fatal. "I've been trying to breed from them for the last four years and this was about to be it."

The birds have identification rings on their legs. They are roughly the same size as rooks with 30in wingspans. The Harris hawks are black and brown with white-tipped tails, while the goshawks have white fronts, grey bodies and piercing orange eyes. Both species have yellow feet.



Head to head: the sculptor Guy Portelli works on a giant statue of Sir Rowland Hill, the first Protestant lord mayor of London in 1549-50, which is to be mounted on a 11ft high column in the grounds of Hawkstone Park in Shropshire. The Hill family seat for several generations. The original 1795 statue, which fell in the 1930s, depicted Sir Rowland in his lord

mayor's gown, holding Magna Carta. On the platform on which the new statue will stand it is possible to see 12 counties. Often it was used as a beacon, as when news of Lord Nelson's victory at Trafalgar was announced: "Amid a roar of cannon and a grand display of fireworks, a huge fire was lit at the top of the column which could be seen for miles around."

## Shop fire blamed on extremists

BY CRAIG SETON

AN ARSON attack yesterday was believed to be responsible for a fire in Leicester that gutted a shop at the centre of protests by Muslims. The shop had been selling shoes embroidered with a quotation from the Koran.

Valentino's in Allendale Road, Leicester, was destroyed early yesterday in a blaze after a car crashed through the front window and caught fire. The fire came a week after Diane Lewis, the owner, was involved in a dispute over imported Italian shoes decorated with an embroidery that included an inscription from the Koran saying: "There is no God but Allah."

Some Muslims protested that it was deeply offensive to have the name of Allah on footwear that would be trampled in the dirt. Mrs Lewis, who also owns shoe shops in Peterborough and Nottingham, was reluctant to remove the shoes from sale and later received anonymous telephone calls.

The dispute appeared to have been resolved last week when Mrs Lewis met local Muslims and a settlement was announced. It was believed to have involved a local Asian businessman buying the remaining stock of the offending shoes and destroying them.

Mrs Lewis, a Roman Catholic, blamed extremists for the fire and said: "I never imagined I would see anything like this. It is terrible. The people in the flat above the next shop could have been killed. I am sad to see this, all caused by some shoes. This is taking religion a little bit too far. It was like a Beirut car bomb."

A spokesman for the Leicester-based Moderate Islamic Trust said yesterday that he was saddened by what had happened and added: "We totally dissociate ourselves from this kind of thing. We would never encourage violence or damage of anyone's property in this way and condemn it in the strongest possible terms."

Leicestershire fire service said the blaze was being treated as arson. The ground floor of the shop was destroyed and the first and second floors were damaged by heat and smoke.

Inspector Neville Cotterill of Leicestershire police said they were examining the possibility of a religious motive for the fire: "We are obviously looking into that aspect. That sort of background will be foremost in our minds."

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## Functional Escort outstrips chic rivals

BY KEVIN EASON  
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

MOST drivers live away from the advertising man's image of high-powered swash through the streets. Instead, the typical British motorist is a married man, aged between 25 and 44, who owns a car about seven years old, most likely a Ford Escort, which costs £113 a month to run.

He covers 8,000 miles a year, mostly to work and for shopping and family outings, and has little interest in maintaining his car, leaving repairs to the local garage, according to an Automobile Association survey of 12,000 motorists.

The average age of the driving population is higher than a decade ago and some motoring costs such as insurance have risen steeply. Ten per cent of motorists were 65 or over in 1981, rising to 15 per cent by last year. There are fewer married people on the roads, down from 86 per cent to 71 per cent. But there are more women drivers — 38 per cent compared with 26 per cent a decade ago.

Seventy per cent drive a used car which cost an average of £2,700, and 63 per cent buy British, down from 74 per cent in 1981. The Ford Escort is the most widely driven, owned by 9.7 per cent. Next most popular among men is the Vauxhall Cavalier (7.1 per cent) and the Ford Sierra (5.8 per cent). The most popular women's car is a Ford Fiesta, accounting for 9.6 per cent.

The survey notes greater restrictions on parking, rising costs and the threat of theft. Fourteen per cent of motorists had at least one parking ticket in the year before the survey. 19 per cent had their car stolen, and 26 per cent had it broken into.

That led to the number of motorists fitting car alarms rising from 5 per cent in 1981 to 17 per cent last year.

In 1981, 8 per cent of the average driver's annual expenditure of £920 was for insurance. Premiums now account for 14 per cent of annual outgoings of £1,400. Servicing and repairs have increased to 24 per cent of the family motoring budget compared with 20 per cent ten years ago.

## Aircraft makes emergency landing

An aircraft with 33 passengers and crew made an emergency landing at Liverpool airport when its nose wheel failed to retract. No one was injured in the incident.

The Manx Airlines turbo prop plane was examined by British Aerospace engineers and transport department accident investigators yesterday. Terry Liddiard, managing director of the airline, praised the skill of Captain Phil Scott, who had followed standard procedure. Just after taking off at 6.50pm on Sunday for a scheduled flight to the Isle of Man, Capt Scott realised there was a hitch and, after circling for an hour, decided to abort the flight. He dumped fuel and alerted the emergency services before landing.

### Lifeboat tribute

The Duke of Kent, president of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, is to name a lifeboat called The Four Boys at Sennen Cove, Cornwall, tomorrow in memory of four boys who died when they were swept out to sea during a school trip to Land's End seven years ago.

### Boys charged

Two boys aged 15 were charged with stealing a caravan and car which left three police cars damaged after a high speed chase. Huddersfield magistrates bailed one and placed the other in care.

### Dog stars

A pet cemetery dating from Victorian days — including a headstone engraved "Darkie the Indomitable, died Nov 18, 1908" — has been found at Drymna Hall, Skewen, West Glamorgan.

### Coins found

A hoard of 800 silver coins thought to have been hidden in the 1480s has been found in a 9in jug in field near Selby, North Yorkshire.

### Just the ticket

Roger Dicker, 22, a Colchester United supporter, has bought a £14 ticket to see his team play Witton Albion in the FA Trophy final at Wembley next month — and a £2,000 airline ticket to fly from Japan where he works.

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## Ponies could be killed by kindness

BY ALISON ROBERTS

THE Exmoor pony, the oldest and rarest native breed of pony, is threatened by government conservation proposals that could fatally weaken its resilience, Somerset farmers say.

To try to protect heather moorland from overgrazing, the agriculture ministry is proposing to give grants to farmers if they take all livestock, including ponies, off the moor and into farms during the winter. The Exmoor Pony Society says that there would be no room for the ponies on farms and that they would have to be slaughtered.

The ministry emphasised yesterday that the scheme would be voluntary. But the society's secretary, David Mansell, claimed that no grants would be paid until all the animals on the

common land, which is used by many farmers, were removed. This would mean that pony owning farmers who did not want to remove the animals would be put under pressure to take part in the scheme.

Mr Mansell said: "We agree with the objective of the proposal, but this could be met by removing sheep and cattle which are used to grazing in fields. If the ponies are taken off as well, even just for the winter, the natural characteristics of coat structure and diet would quickly become weakened, producing a pony that could not survive unaided out on the moor."

Farmers' dedication to the survival of the ponies would be tested if feeding costs and veterinary charges had to be met. Most of the ponies have never been handled by humans. They are

reluctant to eat hay even in the hardest winter and some farmers say that they would not survive well on farms.

Exmoor ponies are an endangered breed, with just under 800 ponies worldwide. Of the 260 known breeding mares, half belong to the herds on Exmoor. The animals, which stand under 12 hands 2in, have lived on the moor since ancient times grazing on gorse, rushes and heather.

Robert Mitchell, whose family owns a stallion and eight mares, described the proposals as "total rubbish". He said: "It would be impossible for some farmers to look after them and they would have to be destroyed." A spokesman for the ministry said it was hoped to implement the scheme within the year and that it would be closely monitored.

Firstdirect is a division of Midland Bank plc

# High cost of reform forces rethink over single-tier councils

BY DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to reorganise local government in England might be shelved as ministers attempt to control public spending.

Michael Howard, the environment secretary, has told advisers that the cost of full-scale reform may be too high and has indicated that he is considering a much more limited plan involving about a dozen big cities.

His predecessor, Michael Heseltine, had an uphill struggle to persuade his cabinet colleagues of the merits of replacing county and district councils with a single tier of all-purpose authorities.

Senior colleagues, including Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, opposed the reform plan, which

emerged from Mr Heseltine's search for a replacement for the community charge. Mr Heseltine, now trade and industry secretary, won the cabinet battle and the Local Government Act, which gained Royal Assent shortly before the election, created a new local government commission with powers to create unitary authorities. Mr Heseltine expected the commission to create new unitary authorities in almost every part of England except London and the metropolitan areas where they already exist.

Sir John Bamham, director general of the CBI who was named as chairman of the commission last November, has, however, said that his guiding principle will be: "If

such a limited reform would, in effect, recreate the old county boroughs by giving the existing district councils in each city control of services such as education and social services, which passed to the county councils in 1974."

Mr Howard wants to talk to local authority leaders before making a final decision. His views are likely to upset the district councils, which have campaigned for the abolition of the counties. The government will risk attacks from Conservative councillors across the country if it disappoints those hopes.

Mr Howard's limited proposals would still achieve the ambition of removing unproductive counties such as Avon and Humberside. Whatever the eventual form of the new structure, Bristol, with 374,000 people one of the largest boroughs in Britain, seems certain to regain its municipal independence.

Mr Heseltine, who sees the agency as an engine for social change, has promised to create 23 unitary authorities to replace all eight county and 37 district councils.

MICHAEL Howard, the new environment secretary, is to lose a substantial part of his inner-city portfolio under the government's shake-up of urban renewal policy.

The decision to shift most of the responsibility for inner cities to the new urban regeneration agency, under Peter Walker, deprives Mr Howard of a big portion of his budget.

One of Mr Howard's first jobs in the new Parliament will be to introduce legislation to set up the agency, which he has worked on for nine months. The mass transfer of responsibilities to Mr Walker will be regarded at Westminster as a blow for Tory right-wingers such as Mr Howard and John Redwood, his minister with day-to-day responsibility for inner cities. During the election campaign, John Major and his ministers played up plans for an agency to bring together



Floral tribute: visitors to the French quarter of New Orleans add their flowers to gifts and messages placed at the point where the British tourist Julie Stott, 27, was shot dead by a mugger last week. Robert "Peanut" Jones, 19, has been charged with her murder

## Howard to lose inner-cities role

BY JOHN LEWIS AND SHEILA GUNN

Mr Howard wants to talk to local authority leaders before making a final decision. His views are likely to upset the district councils, which have campaigned for the abolition of the counties. The government will risk attacks from Conservative councillors across the country if it disappoints those hopes.

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## Short levels in semi-final

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

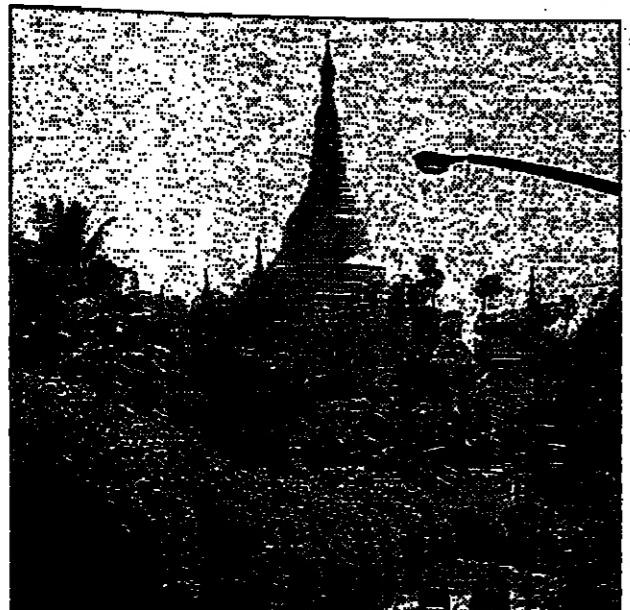
NIGEL Short has levelled the scores in his world chess championship semi-final against Anatoly Karpov in Linares, Spain. He took 15 minutes to capitalise on his advantage in the adjourned fourth game.

In the fifth game, which was also adjourned, Short had a one-pawn advantage, but could not turn it to victory. The match is level at 2½ points each.

The moves in Game 4, with Short playing white, were:

White	Black	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black
22 Kd7	Kb6	23 Kd6	Kb5	24 Kd5	Kb4	25 Kd4	Kb3	26 Kd3	Kb2
27 Kd2	Kb1	28 Kd1	Kb0	29 Kd0	Kb1	30 Kd1	Kb2	31 Kd2	Kb3
32 Kd3	Kb4	33 Kd4	Kb5	34 Kd5	Kb6	35 Kd6	Kb7	36 Kd7	Kb8
37 Kd8	Kc7	38 Kd7	Kc6	39 Kd6	Kc5	40 Kd5	Kc4	41 Kd4	Kc3
42 Kd3	Kc2	43 Kd2	Kc1	44 Kd1	Kc0	45 Kd0	Kc1	46 Kd1	Kc2
47 Kd2	Kc3	48 Kd3	Kc4	49 Kd4	Kc5	50 Kd5	Kc6	51 Kd6	Kc7
52 Kd7	Kc8	53 Kd8	Kc7	54 Kd7	Kc6	55 Kd6	Kc5	56 Kd5	Kc4
57 Kd4	Kc3	58 Kd3	Kc2	59 Kd2	Kc1	60 Kd1	Kc0	61 Kd0	Kc1
62 Kd1	Kc2	63 Kd2	Kc3	64 Kd3	Kc4	65 Kd4	Kc5	66 Kd5	Kc6
67 Kd6	Kc7	68 Kd7	Kc8	69 Kd8	Kc7	70 Kd7	Kc6	71 Kd6	Kc5
72 Kd5	Kc4	73 Kd4	Kc3	74 Kd3	Kc2	75 Kd2	Kc1	76 Kd1	Kc0
77 Kd0	Kc1	78 Kd1	Kc0	79 Kd2	Kc1	80 Kd3	Kc2	81 Kd4	Kc3
82 Kd5	Kc4	83 Kd6	Kc5	84 Kd7	Kc6	85 Kd8	Kc7	86 Kd7	Kc8
87 Kd6	Kc7	88 Kd5	Kc6	89 Kd4	Kc5	90 Kd3	Kc4	91 Kd2	Kc3
92 Kd1	Kc2	93 Kd0	Kc1	94 Kd1	Kc0	95 Kd2	Kc1	96 Kd3	Kc2
97 Kd4	Kc3	98 Kd5	Kc4	99 Kd6	Kc5	100 Kd7	Kc6	101 Kd8	Kc7
102 Kd7	Kc8	103 Kd8	Kc7	104 Kd7	Kc6	105 Kd6	Kc5	106 Kd5	Kc4
107 Kd4	Kc3	108 Kd3	Kc2	109 Kd2	Kc1	110 Kd1	Kc0	111 Kd0	Kc1
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122 Kd5	Kc4	123 Kd4	Kc3	124 Kd3	Kc2	125 Kd2	Kc1	126 Kd1	Kc0
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137 Kd6	Kc7	138 Kd5	Kc6	139 Kd4	Kc5	140 Kd3	Kc4	141 Kd2	Kc3
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152 Kd7	Kc8	153 Kd8	Kc7	154 Kd7	Kc6	155 Kd6	Kc5	156 Kd5	Kc4
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187 Kd6	Kc7	188 Kd5	Kc6	189 Kd4	Kc5	190 Kd3	Kc4	191 Kd2	Kc3
192 Kd1	Kc2	193 Kd0	Kc1	194 Kd1	Kc0	195 Kd2	Kc1	196 Kd3	Kc2
197 Kd4	Kc3	198 Kd5	Kc4	199 Kd6	Kc5	200 Kd7	Kc6	201 Kd8	Kc7
202 Kd7	Kc8	203 Kd8	Kc7	204 Kd7	Kc6	205 Kd6	Kc5	206 Kd5	Kc4
207 Kd4	Kc3	208 Kd3	Kc2	209 Kd2	Kc1	210 Kd1	Kc0	211 Kd0	Kc1
212 Kd1	Kc2	213 Kd2	Kc3	214 Kd3	Kc4	215 Kd4	Kc5	216 Kd5	Kc6
217 Kd6	Kc7	218 Kd7	Kc8	219 Kd8	Kc7	220 Kd7	Kc6	221 Kd6	Kc5
222 Kd5	Kc4	223 Kd4	Kc3	224 Kd3	Kc2	225 Kd2	Kc1	226 Kd1	Kc0
227 Kd0	Kc1	228 Kd1	Kc0	229 Kd2	Kc1	230 Kd3	Kc2	231 Kd4	Kc3
232 Kd5	Kc4	233 Kd6	Kc5	234 Kd7	Kc6	235 Kd8	Kc7	236 Kd7	Kc8
237 Kd6	Kc7	238 Kd5	Kc6	239 Kd4	Kc5	240 Kd3	Kc4	241 Kd2	Kc3
242 Kd1	Kc2	243 Kd0	Kc1	244 Kd1	Kc0	245 Kd2	Kc1	246 Kd3	Kc2
247 Kd4	Kc3	248 Kd5	Kc4	249 Kd6	Kc5	250 Kd7	Kc6	251 Kd8	Kc7
252 Kd7	Kc8	253 Kd8	Kc7	254 Kd7	Kc6	255 Kd6	Kc5	256 Kd5	Kc4
257 Kd4	Kc3	258 Kd3	Kc2	259 Kd2	Kc1	260 Kd1	Kc0	261 Kd0	Kc1
262 Kd1	Kc2	263 Kd2	Kc3	264 Kd3	Kc4	265 Kd4	Kc5	266 Kd5	Kc6
267 Kd6	Kc7	268 Kd7	Kc8	269 Kd8	Kc7	270 Kd7	Kc6	271 Kd6	Kc5
272 Kd5	Kc4	273 Kd4	Kc3	274 Kd3	Kc2	275 Kd2	Kc1	276 Kd1	Kc0
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287 Kd6	Kc7	288 Kd5	Kc6	289 Kd4	Kc5	290 Kd3	Kc4	291 Kd2	Kc3
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# Rangoon awakes from a 50-year sleep to discover blue jeans



Changing ways: among Buddhist pagodas signs of modernism are seen on Rangoon's streets

ON THE descent to Burma's capital, Rangoon, the airline stewardess was reputed to say: "Please adjust your watch to local time - 30 years backwards."

The joke no longer holds true. Martial law is changing the city quickly. Burma has opened up to foreign investment and tourists and the road from the airport is a new six-lane highway. The old British colonial buildings are being repainted and the graceful Strand Hotel, once a romantic stop on the tourist's schedule, is being refurbished. Billboards advertise American Express and Visa credit cards.

The consumer society has reached Rangoon and goods imported from Thailand and China are stacked up in the stores. Blue jeans, once a scarce item, hang rack upon rack in the night markets.

**Since the takeover by the military in 1988, Burma's capital has doubled in size and embraced the market economy.**

Abby Tan writes from Rangoon

"Rangoon was asleep for 50 years," says one city official.

The mayor is Colonel Ko Lay, 53, a former paratrooper. Since the military junta took power in 1988, Rangoon has expanded from 113 to 225 square miles, mainly because of five new satellite towns built to resettle the city's half-million squatters. The army has mobilised "voluntary" brigades of able-bodied men to clean the city and build roads.

Speaking in a city auditorium of gilt ceilings and pink columns, the mayor told a fund-raising ceremony why he needed 30 million kyats

(£2.6 million at the official rate) for a two-week national sports festival beginning on May 3: £1 is worth 12.5 kyats at the official rate of exchange but fetches 155 on the black market. Actresses and pop singers came to pledge their support and have their pictures taken with the mayor. Donations, the mayor says, are a Burmese way of life - a reference to the tradition of donating food to the Buddhist monks.

Rangoon is learning from Singapore, another Asian city that thrived under authoritarian rule. Some of the Rangoon projects are clearly only

for show, but the standard of living has improved.

Khin Kyi Htay, a civil engineer, works for a foreign businessman, and has bought a new Japanese car. Like many middle-class Burmese, she claims up on the subject of politics. Asked if she is bothered by the lack of democracy, she replied: "I don't like politics. I don't read newspapers." Asked how she felt when the pro-democracy movement was crushed by the army in 1988, she replied: "I pray to the Lord Buddha for peace and tranquillity."

On the outskirts of Rangoon the new satellite towns tell a different story. The red clay road into one of them, Dagon township, is desolate. Some houses are wood structures on stilts with palm leaf roofings. Others are tiled, like square concrete boxes painted in loud colours. "Hopeless

town" is the message scrawled in English on a new concrete bridge.

The paradox is that although Burma moved towards a free market economy in 1988, these townships practise the very tenets of socialism the government is trying to leave behind. The Burmese here are heavily subsidised. Water, electricity and medical care are free, and building materials are subsidised.

Sellers have mixed feelings about the townships. Than Nu, a widow aged 50, said she borrowed 3,500 kyats to buy a 40ft by 60ft plot of land. The price is equivalent to about £300 at the official exchange rate but £25 at the black market rate. "Now that I am the owner of my house I am happy," she said. Her three sons, who work in a restaurant in central Ran-

goon, get free transport, as all residents of Dagon travel to the capital to work.

But there are unhappy sellers too. Thein Nyunt, aged 60, was given a plot of land far from the main road. He shook his head and complained: "The government ordered me here. I am not happy. We have no electric and no water." Corrugated iron sheets are his temporary walls in a one-room house which he shares with his wife and four grown-up children and two grandchildren.

Major Ko Lay said

the structure of the townships took 10 per cent of the national budget. No one knows for sure the size of the subsidies but the public sector deficit in 1991 was close to 14 per cent of gross domestic product. The subsidies are likely to stay, if only because the junta fears unrest if they are lifted

## Court overturns stay of killer's execution

FROM JAMIE DEETMER IN WASHINGTON

LEGAL attempts to win a reprieve for Robert Alton Harris continued last night, up to the moment that the convicted killer was being prepared for the gas chamber at California's San Quentin prison.

Harris, sentenced to death for killing two San Diego teenagers in 1978, had hoped on Easter Sunday that he would escape the gas chamber after a federal judge granted a ten-day stay of execution. But yesterday, a three-judge appellate court overturned the order, allowing the execution to be carried out on schedule at one minute past midnight local time today, or 8am BST.

Lawyers for Harris and the American Civil Liberties Union were looking for ways in the hours leading up to his execution to plead the case before the US Supreme Court. The union is anxious

to prevent Harris from becoming the first man to be executed in California in a quarter of a century. Opponents of capital punishment fear that if the state resumes executions, others who have refrained from carrying out the death penalty will follow.

The ten-day order, issued by Judge Marilyn Hall Patel on Saturday, surprised legal experts. The judge's order came in response to a civil liberties lawsuit on behalf of Harris and more than 300 other inmates on California's death row. The argument was that the use of lethal gas was "cruel and unusual punishment", as seen by legal observers as a futile, last-ditch attempt to save Harris after a 13-year campaign through state and federal court appeals to stop his execution.

"We presented overwhelming evidence to Judge Patel that the use of lethal gas was

barbarous and tortuous," Michael Laurence, Harris's lawyer, said. "This whole case is about the method of death. It does not set anyone free. It does not change anyone's sentence."

Supporters of the death penalty yesterday accused Judge Patel of being swayed by personal views. Judge Patel is a former board member of the civil liberties union. The reasons why the 9th District Court of Appeals overturned Judge Patel's order were not clear yesterday. Details of the court's decision were not immediately available.

If the temporary restraining order had stood, the state would have been forced to ask for another death warrant from the courts, a process that would have taken 40 days.

Harris, 39, was sentenced in 1979. Accompanied by his brother, Harris kidnapped two boys from a fast-food restaurant, drove them to a secluded spot, shot them at point-blank range, finished their hamburgers and then went on to rob a bank.

Protests continued yesterday outside San Quentin and in San Francisco's Marina Green Park where demonstrators draped themselves with cardboard tombstones bearing the names of the 502 people executed in California since 1893.

Maryland, Arizona, Mississippi and North Carolina still officially use lethal gas for executions. However, Maryland has not had an execution since 1961 and Arizona has begun the legislative process to change its method of carrying out the death penalty.

Harris's lawyers have filed 20 appeals over the 13 years their client has been on death row. Their grounds have ranged from arguing that the original jury did not realise he is mentally impaired to claiming that his brother took a greater role in the shootings.



Harris due to go to the gas chamber today

## US mayor invites clash on abortion

BY JAMIE DEETMER

MAYORS usually are keen to prevent confrontation on their city streets. James Griffin, the mayor of Buffalo, is different. His invitation to a fundamentalist pro-life group to visit his city led to predictable and ugly clashes yesterday outside Buffalo's three abortion clinics.

Obscenities were hurled between pro-life and pro-choice demonstrators as members of Operation Rescue, an anti-abortion group attempted to blockade the clinics. Leaders on both sides of the abortion debate promised non-violent demonstrations, but few believed that Buffalo would avoid what happened to Wichita, Kansas, last year when Operation Rescue came to town.

During the six-week protests in Wichita, police made more than 2,000 arrests and the city had to fork out nearly \$500,000 (£287,000) on police overtime pay. Yesterday in Buffalo, about 300 abortion rights demonstrators gathered before dawn outside one of the city's clinics in readiness for the start of Operation Rescue's four-week protest.

Most of the 328,000 resi-

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGE INTEREST RATE CHANGE

The Society hereby gives notice that the rate of interest charged on existing mortgages applying to wholly owner occupied properties will be reduced by 0.50% gross per annum from 4th May 1992.

Borrowers with mortgages on the Annual Revision of Monthly Payments Scheme will be notified of the new rate of interest and their revised monthly payment through the Annual Statement of Account which will be sent in January 1993.

There will be no change to interest rates for mortgages completed on or after 28th January 1992.

### PORTMAN BUILDING SOCIETY

PRINCIPAL OFFICE: PORTMAN HOUSE, RICHMOND HILL, BOURNEMOUTH, BH2 6EP

MEMBER OF THE BUILDING SOCIETIES ASSOCIATION

## UN chief appeals for aid to ease Cambodia's suffering

FROM JAMES PRINGLE  
IN PHNOM PENH

BOUTROS Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, yesterday appealed for \$593 million (£340 million) to alleviate suffering and to help rebuild Cambodia. He again expressed optimism over the prospects for peace and a settlement of the conflict.

Dr Boutros Ghali was ending a three-day visit to inspect the world body's ambitious peacekeeping operation. He said funds were needed "to help this beleaguered nation recover from more than two decades of conflict and suffering". The cash inflow, he added, would also ensure that the political process which had put Cambodia on the road to democracy would not be compromised.

Sitting next to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council, the UN-managed reconciliation body linking the four Cambodian factions, Dr Boutros Ghali said the funds would pay for food, health services, shelter, education, training and the restoration of the basic infrastructure and public utilities. Some money would go towards repairing 370,000 refugees now in camps along the Thai-Cambodian border.

The reparation process, which began late last month, is part of the accords signed last October in Paris. The UN

chief, who toured a transit camp for returning Cambodians on Sunday, promised yesterday that they would all be back before elections next April, "even if we have to bring them by plane". One of the main problems is that most available land is still thick with mines.

Speaking at the royal palace, Dr Boutros Ghali said that the role of the UN was not limited just to blunting troops keeping the peace. "We are committed to cementing the peace through genuine reconciliation. In Cambodia, this means reaching the long-neglected vulnerable groups in society with succour and support. It also means providing economic, social and technical assistance to former antagonists."

Earlier, he witnessed the leaders of the four factions, including Khieu Samphan, the nominal Khmer Rouge chieftain, signing two international covenants on political and human rights. The Khmer Rouge, under whose

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# Syria's failure to defy UN sanctions exposes Arab splits

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

**G**RIA, rapidly re-emerging leader of the radical Arab states, was foiled yesterday by slow Arabs and others in its attempt to fly the first United Nations sanctions-breaking flight to Libya.

The failure of the much-publicised Syrian flight to materialise came as a severe blow to the Libyan regime, increasing its international isolation. It coincided with an announcement from Tripoli that the few Western journalists there must leave and all Arabs working for Western news organisations must cease reporting.

The action against journalists prompted renewed diplomatic speculation that Colonel Muammar Gaddafi was

encountering divisions inside his regime about the handling of the dispute over the two Libyans allegedly involved in the Lockerbie bombing. The Egyptian media have carried a number of reports claiming that Colonel Gaddafi is being upset by his hardline deputy, Major Abdel-Salam Jalloul. The reports said the major was preventing the Libyan leader from implementing any compromise over the two agents suspected of blowing up the Pan Am jumbo in 1988.

The enforced grounding of the scheduled flight from Damascus to Tripoli was caused by the refusal of Cyprus, Greece, Egypt and Tunisia to give the plane, the first publi-

cised attempt to break sanctions, the necessary overflying permission. An official of Syrian Arab Airlines claimed that it would continue to try to obtain permission to fly to Libya. But Arab diplomatic sources said that was unlikely to be granted.

Instead of demonstrating Arab unity, as intended, the attempted flight had proved a public relations disaster, highlighting that members of the 21-strong Arab League (to which Syria and Libya both belong) disagree over the sanctions. An editorial in the Libyan daily *Al Fajr al Jadid*, which claimed that the proposed flight was "internal", had a hollow ring. "The Arab nation is one entity and flights between its countries are in fact domestic flights which necessitate no interference from international bodies," the paper argued in vain. Last week Egypt rebuffed a Libyan suggestion that the two countries should merge in another attempted way round the sanctions.

Others have emerged between Bahrain and Qatar and between Iran and the United Arab Emirates. A United Nations border commission last week foreshadowed yet another by giving Kuwait several Iraqi oil wells.

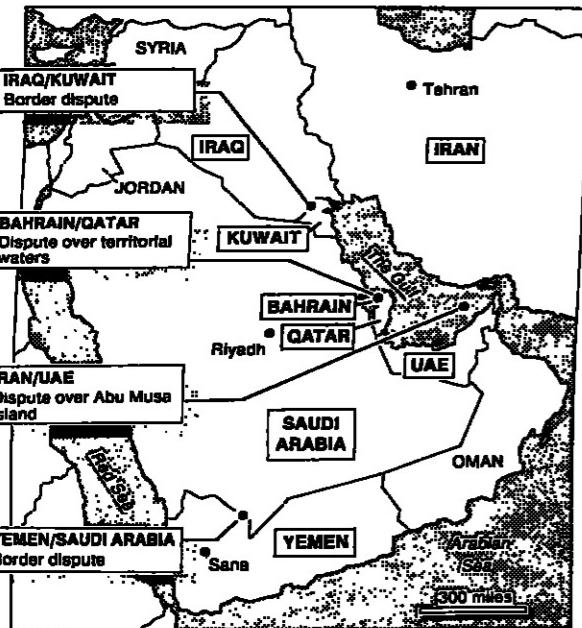
Tension between Saudi Arabia and Yemen increased when the Saudis warned two Western oil companies against drilling in a Yemen-controlled region claimed by Saudi Arabia, which last year expelled a million Yemeni workers and cut aid.

Iran last week denied that it had expelled hundreds of UAE citizens from the once-disputed Gulf island of Abu Musa, which it administers jointly with Sharjah, a shakhdan within the UAE.

THE release yesterday of Ali Kafai, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Yemen, after being held by a Yemeni gunman for 19 hours in his office in the capital, Sanaa, is the latest of a series of potentially explosive border disputes plaguing the Gulf.

Although the stated motive for the hold-up was a ransom of \$1 million (£600,000), Mr Kafai said the gunman claimed to need the cash for an unidentified group. Yemen, which angered the Saudis by backing Iraq, sent in a squad of commandos, one of whom, disguised as a waiter, threw a cup of scalding tea into the gunman's face.

A long-running border dispute between the two nations has been revived this month.



Business as usual: a Palestinian businessman and an orthodox Jew shake on a deal in Hebron yesterday near the Cave of the Patriarchs, a holy site visited by hundreds of Jews during the Passover holiday

## Israel to reopen rebellious university on West Bank

BIR Zeit University on the West Bank, for 20 years a focus of resistance to the Israeli occupation, will be allowed to reopen this month, after Israeli military authorities lifted a four-year ban on the campus yesterday.

In a surprise announcement, Moshe Arens, the defence minister, said that some classes would be allowed to resume on condition that the university authorities bore responsibility for ensuring that the campus did not become a "focal point of violence".

Albert Aghazarian, the university's spokesman, said that two of the four faculties, engineering and science, would reopen for about half the student body on April 29 on a probationary basis. "We are not euphoric, but it is a step in the right direction," he said. "We will be under close observation from the army and we will have to endure this absurd Kafkaesque routine until they are satisfied and allow us to reopen the arts and business facilities. However, we are convinced that the students are eager to resume studies and will avoid any unnecessary confrontations."

Libya's isolation was increased when Middle East Airlines, the national carrier of Lebanon, a country under Syrian influence, announced that it had suspended its weekly flight from Beirut to Tripoli because of problems in obtaining insurance. Cynics said those problems gave Arab countries not wishing to offend Libya a convenient way of abiding by the sanctions while appearing not willing to do so.

Classes will resume soon at Bir Zeit campus, a centre of Palestinian resistance, writes Richard Beeston

which come those who have graduated in the murder and killing of Jews."

Bir Zeit, the most prestigious Palestinian academic institution, was a magnet for anti-Israel activity long before the authorities closed it down by military order on January 8, 1988, a month after the intifada began.

Located in the picturesque hills of the West Bank, north of Jerusalem, the university first won its radical reputation in November 1974 when its president, Hanan Nasir, was deported by the Israeli authorities. In subsequent years both the faculty and the student body were involved in regular confrontations with the army.

Even when the university was closed, and classes for most of the 2,600 students were moved off-campus facilities in nearby Ramallah, the college still maintained its political credentials within the Palestinian community.

When the Middle East peace talks opened in Madrid, for instance, five members of the Palestinian delegation were Bir Zeit professors, most notably Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman and a professor of English.

## Sharansky to contest election

BY RICHARD BEESTON

SOFT-SPOKEN Natan Sharansky, the former Soviet refusenik and now a potential candidate in Israel's general elections, has the knack of infuriating those in power.

After nine years in the Soviet gulags as a prisoner of conscience fighting for the right of Jews to emigrate, Israel's most prominent Russian immigrant has turned his guns on the political establishment in Israel, threatening to launch a new party.

Although Mr Sharansky previously refused to enter politics, declining offers from Likud, Labour and the new Soviet immigrant party, Da, he has declared that reluctantly he intends to fight the June 23 election in desperation at what he regards as the bankrupt policies of the government.

"He wants to fight the election by putting what he sees as the main issues up front, namely the importance of completing the immigration of Russian Jewry and the need to get the Israeli economy working," said his spokeswoman.

## Ousted leader can leave Kabul

Kabul: Afghan guerrillas claimed yesterday to control all key cities apart from Kabul as the ousted president, Muhammad Najibullah, prepared to fly out of the country.

The embattled government had agreed in talks with a United Nations envoy to allow Dr Najibullah, deposed last Thursday, to leave and he was likely to fly out later yesterday.

All over the country government forces appeared to be giving up without a fight, preferring to strike a deal with the advancing Mujahidin guerrillas rather than risk a bloodbath.

Officials in Kabul said that the crucial city of Jalalabad — eastern gateway to the capital — was still in government hands, but its commander was negotiating the formation of a coalition with the rebels. A spokesman in the ruling Watani party said that General Afzal Ludin, the garrison commander in Jalalabad, 90 miles east of Kabul, was leading the talks.

Control of Kandahar in the south had already passed into the hands of a coalition of Mujahidin and the local commander. "There was no violence. The Mujahidin agreed not to take their weapons into the city. Kabul is no longer in control," the spokesman said.

The Kabul government, which is surrounded by Mujahidin and weakened by defections, has been forced to negotiate transfers of power in the main cities, but the government is hoping to maintain at least a measure of authority and some bargaining power. (Reuters)

## Crew rescued

HONG KONG: A Royal Navy ship, HMS Plover, assisted in the rescue of 26 seamen after an explosion ripped through a 30,000-tonne Liberian-registered oil tanker, killing two of the crew in the South China Sea.

## Lava slows

MOUNT ETNA: Stiff winds thwarted an attempt by helicopter-borne troops to plug an underground river of lava flowing a tide of molten rock down Mount Etna. But the flow of lava towards the town of Zafferana slowed. (Reuters)

## Aid ban eased

NAIROBI: Sudan has eased a two-month ban on relief flights to the rebel-held south where an army offensive is under way, but rebels said people would still be left without food and many thousands face starvation. (AFP)

## Leak plugged

CHICAGO: Engineers have plugged the leak in a century-old tunnel that flooded the basements of scores of buildings here, causing 200,000 people to be evacuated. (AFP)

Support grows for professional parliament

## Deputies want congress laid to rest

NIKOLAI Podgornov, a Russian congress deputy from the northern town of Vologda and the chairman of his local council, left Moscow on Saturday to fend off a strike by agricultural workers at home and he has no intention of coming back. From Vologda, he said it was time that Russia had a professional parliament.

Congresses, he said, were a waste of time. Too many deputies attended to show off to their constituents — proceedings are broadcast on television — and fewer decisions were taken.

Rumblings in the lobby and even the occasional speech in the hall demonstrate that Mr Podgornov is not alone in his view that the Congress of People's Deputies as an institution has outlived its usefulness and should be laid to rest. Because the powers vested in the congress and the balance of political forces in Russia, however, this is more easily said than done.

The Congress of People's Deputies is Russia's supreme legislative body, the only body authorised to change the constitution. The standing parliament, whose membership is rotated annually among deputies, does not have this right.

President Yeltsin, like Mikhail Gorbachev before him, has indicated repeatedly that he wants to enact reforms within the bounds of the constitution. The constitution in its present form does not give the president the right to dissolve congress. Unless he can per-

suade the congress to dissolve itself, Mr Yeltsin must continue to call, and heed, the congress — or encourage it to delegate its powers to the standing parliament.

Mr Yeltsin's reputation also requires him to act within the constitution. Abroad, though to a far lesser extent at home, his democratic credentials have been suspect. Were he unilaterally to dissolve the congress and rule by decree, this would confirm people's worst suspi-

cions and halt much Western goodwill, as well as aid.

Some would argue that the deputies, who were elected two years ago, are no longer representative of opinion across the country. This may be true. Nonetheless, they were elected, and many have significant local powerbases. The position of Mr Yeltsin and his government is not so strong that he can ignore these local empires without risking his authority.

Finally, the questions

under discussion at this congress, the first since Russia became a fully independent state, are crucial issues of principle, which will determine Russia's future structure. They concern the power of the executive against the legislature, the power of the centre against the regions and the nature of the presidency.

As all sides appreciate, one tiny amendment in the hand of a wily drafter can change the balance of power in Russia at least until the next congress, and perhaps for good. That is why the congress has lasted 13 days already, and has at least one more day to go — and why Mr Podgornov might have done better to stay the course.

While Moscow's drivers were complaining, petrol is still the cheapest aspect of motoring in Russia and cheap by international standards as well. A private car here is still a luxury. Even before retail prices were freed in January, few could afford a car.

Most had to buy second-hand cars on the unofficial market, at prices of 15,000 to 20,000 roubles for a Lada and more for other models. Cars therefore cost about 50 times the average monthly salary in Russia, compared with about five times in Britain. Petrol costs a fraction of what it does in Britain.

Songs of praise: Muscovites singing their support for President Yeltsin, who has been under attack from deputies at the people's congress

## Fuel cost soars in Moscow

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

MOSCOW: motorists were shocked to discover yesterday morning that prices of petrol and diesel fuel had quintupled overnight. Filling up the most common Lada car will now cost the unheard-of sum of 240 roubles.

Eduard Grushevko, the Russian minister of fuel and energy, insisted that the price change should not be seen as an increase, but rather as an adjustment to compensate for increased production costs. He said he did not envisage the need for further rises.

The immediate decision to raise retail prices for petrol rests with the city council, which buys fuel in bulk from the producers and could choose to subsidise the cost if it had the money. Some cities raised petrol prices before Moscow, which gave them priority in supplies. Other regions now have little alternative but to fall into line.

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## Yeltsin to reshuffle government

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW AND ROBERT SEELEY IN KIEV

PRESIDENT Yeltsin was preparing for a further reorganisation of government and presidential structures yesterday to fulfil his half of the bargain struck earlier with the parliamentary opposition. He is expected to appoint a new prime minister within three months, cut his presidential staff and name a new deputy prime minister acceptable to parliament.

Mr Yeltsin outlined his proposals to leaders of parliamentary factions yesterday and is expected to announce details at the closing session of the Congress of People's Deputies, probably today. Opponents had condemned him for combining the posts of president and prime minister.

Mr Yeltsin argued that this contravened the constitutional separation of powers. A resolution gave Mr Yeltsin three months to change the structure of the government, but a subsequent declaration appeared to allow him to retain the prime minister's post until December.

Mr Yeltsin may be gambling that the chief of the economic reform programme, Yegor Gaidar, the first deputy prime minister, will be strong enough by then to occupy the post in his own right. During the congress, Mr Gaidar has been a tireless defender of the controversial reforms and an opinion poll in Moscow after the government had threatened to resign unless its reforms were continued, found that Mr Gaidar's popularity rating had risen ten points from 35 to 45 per cent since the start of the congress.

The promised cuts in the president's staff come in answer to criticism that the pow-

ers granted to Mr Yeltsin were being used less by the president than by his bloated apparatus, which is not subject to parliamentary control.

Those who had hoped to extend yesterday's congress discussion to include claims to the Black Sea fleet and the Crimea were disappointed. The chairman said it would not be wise to raise passions now, two days before talks are due to begin in Odessa.

In Kiev, President Krav-

chuk gave his bluntest warning yet to activists campaigning for an independence referendum in the Crimea, warning of "catastrophe" if the peninsula secedes from Ukraine. He called for Crimeans to ignore the powerful separatist movement. "The referendum will be a tragic waste of time to split the Crimea. What this will lead to and what harm it can do no one can predict," he said.

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Pictures at an exposition: King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain inaugurated Expo '92, where balloons representing participant states were released. A demonstrator protesting over police action was arrested

## Expo opening gives Spain reason to celebrate growth

FROM ROBERT HART IN SEVILLE

TO THE thunder of fire-works and the chiming of church bells across Seville, the Expo '92 world fair was formally opened yesterday by King Juan Carlos of Spain. Balloons with the flags of the 110 participating countries rose into the sky and 5,000 pigeons were released.

The universal exposition of Seville is the greatest exposition in history, not only in terms of size... but also in terms of the diversity and quality of activities," King Juan Carlos said.

Expo '92 is the first spectacular of Spain's 1992 celebrations to mark the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's discovery of the New World. The Olympic Games in Barcelona in July and August will be the other big international event.

The opening ceremony took place in sunshine on newly-laid lawns outside a

restored 15th century monasteries on the edge of the site on Seville's Cartuja island. Against a backdrop of sumptuous canopies, domes and spires of pavilions built of steel, glass, bronze and wood, the king greeted Felipe González, the prime minister, and his cabinet before reviewing a troop of the royal guard.

Some 10,000 police and 3,000 private security men were on duty in and around Seville and on the Expo site. Basque separatists have threatened to target Expo, but their attacks this year have been concentrated in Barcelona and Madrid.

Opponents of Spain's Columbus commemorations, who see 1492 as the start of centuries of colonialist repression, grappled with police at one of the gates to the site during the ceremony. On Sunday night at least three people were injured in central

Seville when, according to witnesses, police fired live bullets at a crowd of about 100 protesters.

The exhibition, expected to receive some 18 million visitors during its six-month run, is seen by Spain as a chance to show itself the equal of its European partners in technological, organisational and imaginative verve. "This exposition, which we bid for in 1982 and won in 1983, has witnessed the development and consolidation of Spanish democracy," Señor González said. "It has been witness to our economic advance, the modernisation of Spain, the increase in prosperity of our people, our integration into the European Community and our total involvement in all international forums."

When Expo closes on October 12, several multinational companies will stay to set up a technology park. (Reuters)

## Winnie Mandela fighting back

**Winnie Mandela** is fighting to rescue her political career as an activist. She is still "Mother of the Nation" to thousands of township youths radicalised by state repression. The estranged wife of ANC leader Nelson Mandela, faces the formal test of her popularity on May 3, when her region of the African National Congress Women's League elects office holders.

Hungary's first representative at the Miss Universe contest, being held this year in Bangkok, has said she does not want to win. Dora Patko, aged 19, said a year as Miss Universe would take her away from her studies to be a teacher.

**Yassir Arafat**, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, has been in

Morocco to discuss Libya's conflict with the West and Middle East peace talks with King Hassan.

**Saleva Atisanoe**, known in Japan as Konishiki, a 557lb Samoan-American seeking to become Japan's first foreign grand champion sumo wrestler, blames racial discrimination for his failure.

**Atisanoe: blames discrimination**

## US mulls break with Belgrade

As the Americans argue with the Serbs, Greece disputes the claims of Macedonia, Chris Eliou writes

THE United States is considering breaking off diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia to underline its opposition to Serbian aggression against the breakaway republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, a state department official said yesterday.

The official said much would depend on talks in Belgrade this week between Ralph Johnson, the American deputy assistant secretary of state, and Slobodan Milošević, the Serb leader. Mr Johnson had to decide whether it was worth preserving any dialogue with Belgrade, he said.

The American embassy in Belgrade is still accredited to Yugoslavia even though it is now reduced to two of its former six constituent republics — Serbia and Montenegro. The diplomat said that if Washington broke its links with Belgrade, it would not be able to transfer recognition to Serbia because of Belgrade's aggression and its record on

human rights. If Washington breaks off ties, it could put Belgrade's membership of international organisations in jeopardy. Yugoslav treasury officials flew to the United States yesterday to try to head off any attempts to exclude them from the International Monetary Fund.

Meanwhile, the Greek government stepped up its efforts to avert recognition by the European Community of the Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. Failure to find a face-saving formula could lead to the collapse of the government of Constantine Mitsotakis midway through its four-year term.

Mr Mitsotakis has had emergency consultations in Athens with Gianni De Michelis and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Italian and German foreign ministers. Yesterday he met Joao de Deus Pinheiro, their Portuguese counterpart, and meets Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary, in Athens on Thursday.

Athens has blocked Community recognition on the ground that the use of the name implies territorial claims on its northern province of the same name, and is seeking to hold the EC to a three-point agreement reached by foreign ministers last December. The agreement requires Skopje, the capital of the Yugoslav republic, to adopt constitutional and political guarantees that it has no territorial claims and to avoid use of a name that would imply such claims.

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## Woodrow Wyatt

**The Chancellor will be a fine guardian of the public purse**

A part from Mr Major, the government's great success story is Norman Lamont. Yet almost from the moment he became Chancellor in November 1990, he has been reviled, often venomously, by powerful press voices which should have known better. Foremost in the pack has been *The Sunday Times*, with this paper sometimes close behind. *The Sunday Times'* front-page banner headline on April 5 asserted "Britain set for hung parliament, with Labour the largest party". Its leader on March 15 was headed "Opportunity lost", and the Budget was branded "a damp squib".

That accorded with the leader column of August 4, 1991: "It must now be dawnning on John Major that he needs a new Chancellor... In the run-up to an election he will be savaged by the formidable Labour economic team of John Smith and Gordon Brown." Even on April 12, after the Tories had won, *The Sunday Times'* banner headline was "Lamont survives in reshuffle".

Sure in the minds of Lamont-baiters, there was never a doubt that he would remain the pilot steering us to the sunnier, calmer waters of recovery, now cheerfully in sight after the storms of the recession, for which he was in no way responsible. Crabbed critics must reconsider their hostile judgments or lose more face for being unbalanced and ridiculous — like the good, over-drawn Sir Alan Walters, who has been busy contradicting himself in the *Evening Standard* while attacking Mr Lamont. He achieved a miracle of absurdity on April 13: all the Falklanders should be given hefty bribes to leave their homes, he said, to allow Argentina vacan possession. You might think even an unworldly economist would know about the prospects of huge oil reserves in Falkland waters and the wealth which will eventually pour out of Britain's share of Antarctica.

Norman Lamont inherited inflation at nearly 11 per cent, and reduced it to 4 per cent; he has cut interest rates by 3.5 per cent from the present 10.5 per cent, comparable with Germany's for the first time in a decade. Not bad for a Chancellor portrayed by the carpers as hopeless. His cautious but brilliant Budget skilfully skewed Labour, with its judicious tax cuts for all and the credible promise of more to come. He destroyed John Smith's bogus budget by persistently demanding a figure for Labour's spending plans. Unable to answer, John Smith's facade of sound respectability collapsed.

Nor could Labour brush away Mr Lamont's careful analysis showing that the extra taxation required would come to an annual £1,250 per average family. Torpedoing the battleship Smith, showing it was clad with plywood, clinched the election. Some Tories queried Mr Lamont's wisdom in repeatedly highlighting taxation, probably because they were conned by the now poleaxed pollsters, who idiotically told us that a general willingness to pay higher taxes was a bonus for Labour.

Mr Lamont is a brave, canny Scot, who resolutely keeps his head while other prominent Scots lose theirs. Occasionally he seemed to some hesitant and dishevelled on TV, prompting suggestions that he could do with a good make-up artist. That he will now be a profligate spender is another fashionable, silly superficiality. His chief secretary at the Treasury, Michael Portillo, is an ardent anti-spending hardliner, like the Chancellor and the social security secretary, Peter Lilley. Others in key spending posts at education, transport and employment, are of the same mind. Mrs Thatcher herself could not ask for stronger guardians of the public purse.

**Teacher appraisal must reward the conscientious not the fashionable ideologues, says Janet Daley**

## Can they pass the exam?

One of my bitterest memories of the state school system as a parent concerns the way promotions almost invariably went to the worst teachers. What I mean by "worst", is what any common-sense view of schooling would regard as worst: from teachers who could not spell to those with a mystical commitment to avoiding any transmission of knowledge for fear that it would limit the imaginations of the ignorant.

The very teachers who reduced me to fury with their simple-minded ideological certainties or their plain inadequacy would move onwards and upwards, often venomously, by powerful press voices which should have known better. Foremost in the pack has been *The Sunday Times*, with this paper sometimes close behind. *The Sunday Times'* front-page banner headline on April 5 asserted "Britain set for hung parliament, with Labour the largest party". Its leader on March 15 was headed "Opportunity lost", and the Budget was branded "a damp squib".

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is now unacceptable to all political parties. Jack Straw, from the safe confines of the opposition benches, has promised that Labour will be at least as determined to root out bad teaching as the Tories. Indeed, one consolation for Labour in defeat is that it will not have to cope in office with the embarrassment of the National Union of Teachers conference. Had Labour won on the basis that it could deliver better education, this week's insistence by teachers that they be accountable to no one but themselves would have propelled the party straight into a stark test of principle.

The NUT's rejection, by an overwhelming majority, of government plans for a system of teacher appraisal with real teeth places its members firmly in the trade union tradition so harmful to Labour. By setting their faces

against the only kind of professional evaluation which can improve education standards — one which penalises bad teachers and rewards good ones — the teachers are choosing to defend an infamous kind of producer-dominated public service.

Undaunted by public opinion, parental outrage or pressure from their political friends, many will go to the barricades for an education system run by and for the educators: a closed system which not only protects itself from criticism by outsiders, but makes its least effective members immune to comparison with their betters.

But surely, many good teachers should be fighting against this stand? To shield the inept, the lazy, and the slipshod cannot be in the interests of the profession as a whole. Conscientious, able teachers must deeply resent the damage which has been done by poor teaching to the public esteem of their vocation and to the reputation of the state school system. They must be ashamed as well of the unreconstructed hostility that the NUT officially expresses to the very idea that bad teachers should be identified and made to improve their performance.

So how is it that a policy can be adopted which must be contrary to the interests of many teachers who have everything to gain and nothing to lose from being properly assessed? Why is there not a great groundswell of support from the profession for a system which would bring just rewards to the many good teachers languishing thanklessly in the backwaters of the system? One reason is to do with the tyranny of political correctness within the teaching community. (And "community" here, teachers very largely socialise with, and often marry, other teachers.)

There is another reason why a profession can come to be dominated by voices so alien to its best interests. Like many of the old producer-dominated industries, education is a monolith in which pay and conditions are negotiated nationally by huge bodies, which dwarf local or individual concerns. A heavily unionised public service can quite easily be manipulated by small groups of well-organised tacticians. The only solution to this, as the government has recognised, is pluralism: breaking the hold of huge unions which attract professional agitators. Schools which control their own funds and which have the power to determine their own independent philosophies will not be caught up in a national game of power politics. Instead they can concern themselves with the real needs of pupils and the real strengths of teachers.

had earned it by hard work — yet not much minding inherited wealth. If you take the philosophers' obsession with justice seriously, you would expect people to approve of the results of hard work and application, and disapprove of arbitrary good fortune. But the reverse makes good sense too. It is simply good luck to be born the son of the Duke of Westminster — it might have happened to any of us — so why complain? Our employers, on the other hand, may be hard-driving figures we have every reason to distrust, so why not begrudge them their rewards?

In the case of bad luck, there is a different outlook at work. Old age, injury or prolonged illness bring undeserved misfortune with them, and here it seems to me there is a general sense that the arbitrary inequality they cause is something society ought collectively to alleviate.

Even here, what is at work is not the abstract enthusiasm for equality that philosophers are so fond of: the sentiment varies, but often it is a feeling of human solidarity: we all face the hazards that flesh is heir to, and human societies should provide a common protection against them. Some such thought may account for the affection in which the British hold the National Health Service, even when they agree that it is less than perfect. At the least society is seen as an insurance company, but one that cannot throw out the bad risks.

If that is right, it squares with what opinion polls suggest: that Labour is attractive as the defender of the NHS and other features of the social insurance system, but not as the bearer of a positive vision of egalitarian social justice. Egalitarians have always been clearer about the inequalities they are against than about the equalities they are for, and they have killed off a good many of them. Nobody now objects to equality before the law, or thinks women should have fewer chances than men to become doctors, lawyers, or politicians.

The Labour party would get on better with the electorate if it stuck to the defence of the welfare state, and otherwise acknowledged that most of its supporters see the world as something of a lottery — one they do not want rigged against them, but which they do not wish to abolish altogether.

*The author is professor of philosophy at Princeton University.*



Top tennis players like Stefan Edberg earn huge prize money, but the public do not object

anyone who thinks that the \$86 million that Robert C. Gozetta took home from Coca-Cola last year is the minimum it takes to put some fizz into managers.

The acceptance of inequality is not the result of ignorance about its scope. Mostly, it stems from a view about the acceptability of privilege and bad fortune which makes perfectly good sense, even though it is not a view that intellectuals have gone in for: from Aristotle to T.H. Green and

John Rawls, they have thought we should replace chance with justice. I am not sure that this resonates with the man in the street. People rightly have a very different attitude towards the chance of doing well and the chance of having something horrible happen to them — although they do not think very accurately about the odds in either direction, always misjudging their chance of winning the lottery, and are still more frightened of aeroplanes than of motor cars. Once people's views about good and bad luck are understood, it is easier to see why most people support the welfare state but do not subscribe to egalitarianism.

Skills like those of tennis players are widely thought to be a gift from the gods, like drawing a winning ticket in a lottery — one they do not want rigged against them, but which they do not wish to abolish altogether.

*The author is professor of philosophy at Princeton University.*

And yet none of this sustains a more general egalitarianism of the sort that the left could hope to capitalise upon. Currently the

choice is between a few more

...and moreover

### Craig Brown

there anything else? And they expect one to pay for such relentless probing.

*The Plaza Hotel, Fife.* They cheerfully advertise "country walks", but they don't bother to tell you that you can easily get your shoes muddy on even quite a short walk. Personally, I returned with my shoes, soaking after a walk across a nearby stream, and when the manager superciliously asked if I would like him to dry them, I couldn't refrain from replying "What is the point of asking me that now, when they are already wet?" That certainly silenced him!

*The Castle Hotel, Wales.* Lunch was a crippling disappointment.

Today, we proudly reprint these fearless extracts from some of her recent reviews, detailing in her spare and haunting prose some of the more harrowing experiences she has undergone in luxury hotels the length of the land.

*The Grand Palace Hotel, Cornwall.* On arrival, I was greeted by a smiling doorman who asked if he could carry my bags. But I had seen this trick before. His smile left me in no doubt that he was hell-bent on a tip. But two can play that game, so I said no, thank you very much. I have a perfectly good pair of arms, and I proceeded to carry them upstairs myself. That showed him. Needless to say, the acquisitive smile never left his face for a moment, even in the light of such a defeat. The nosiness of the rest of the staff knew no bounds. When did I like my breakfast? Which paper did I like to read in the morning? Was

course I did not hesitate to demand my money back.

*The Hotel Grand Comfort, Marbella.* The coffee was of very dark colour, and far too hot — steam could be seen rising threateningly from the surface. The so-called staff had not even bothered to pre-butter the bread, and the marmalade was presented in an entirely separate dish. They obviously rely on the goodwill and hard labour of their long-suffering guests rather than getting off their backsides and doing the job for which they are being paid.

*The Gran Residencia, Madrid.* Knowing that I was to spend the weekend in Madrid, I brushed up on my Portuguese. All to no avail. None of the staff seemed to speak more than a few words of Portuguese. Would it be asking too much of them?

*The Seaview Family Hotel, The Isle of Wight.* Contrary to all my more optimistic expectations, the Seaview Family Hotel turns out to be choc-a-block with children galore. Furthermore, many of the bedrooms are, I discovered, occupied — whether secretly or not, I do not know — by the very same children. When I complained to the manager, he pointed out with an unctuous smile that the word "Family" was visible on the hotel's nameplate. I had been utterly misled, I complained, into thinking that it was simply a hotel run by the Scavie family, and of

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*The Hotel Grand Comfort, Marbella.* The coffee was of very dark colour, and far too hot — steam could be seen rising threateningly from the surface. The so-called staff had not even bothered to pre-butter the bread, and the marmalade was presented in an entirely separate dish. They obviously rely on the goodwill and hard labour of their long-suffering guests rather than getting off their backsides and doing the job for which they are being paid.

*The Seaview Family Hotel, The Isle of Wight.* Contrary to all my more optimistic expectations,

the Seaview Family Hotel turns out to be choc-a-block with children galore. Furthermore, many of the bedrooms are, I discovered, occupied — whether secretly or not, I do not know — by the very same children. When I complained to the manager, he pointed out with an unctuous smile that the word "Family" was visible on the hotel's nameplate. I had been utterly misled, I complained, into thinking that it was simply a hotel run by the Scavie family, and of

course I did not hesitate to demand my money back.

*The Plaza Hotel, Fife.* They cheerfully advertise "country walks", but they don't bother to tell you that you can easily get your shoes muddy on even quite a short walk. Personally, I returned with my shoes, soaking after a walk across a nearby stream, and when the manager superciliously asked if I would like him to dry them, I couldn't refrain from replying "What is the point of asking me that now, when they are already wet?" That certainly silenced him!

*The Castle Hotel, Wales.* Lunch was a crippling disappointment.

Today, we proudly reprint these fearless extracts from some of her recent reviews, detailing in her spare and haunting prose some of the more harrowing experiences she has undergone in luxury hotels the length of the land.

*The Grand Palace Hotel, Cornwall.* On arrival, I was greeted by a smiling doorman who asked if he could carry my bags. But I had seen this trick before. His smile left me in no doubt that he was hell-bent on a tip. But two can play that game, so I said no, thank you very much. I have a perfectly good pair of arms, and I proceeded to carry them upstairs myself. That showed him. Needless to say, the acquisitive smile never left his face for a moment, even in the light of such a defeat. The nosiness of the rest of the staff knew no bounds. When did I like my breakfast? Which paper did I like to read in the morning? Was

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*The Hotel Grand Comfort, Marbella.* The coffee was of very dark



## POWER AND PROTEST

After the Conservatives' fourth general election victory in a row, not just the Labour party is despairing. Several groups that had seen salvation in a Labour government are now talking about extra-parliamentary action. Yesterday the Scottish TUC president, Jane McKay, hinted that civil disobedience should be planned in Edinburgh to coincide with the EC summit. Other Scots want to organise a referendum on self-government. And teachers at the Easter NUT conference only narrowly voted down a boycott of the government's plans for teacher appraisal.

Some groups traditionally feel uncomfortable with a Conservative government: trade unions, the unemployed, sociologists, council tenants, Scots, the Welsh. Others have been newly alienated over the past 13 years, partly because Margaret Thatcher delighted in taking on entrenched interests, but also because any reforming government that lasts for that long is bound to make new enemies. To the old list can be added some doctors, nurses, teachers, farmers, academics, local authorities, civil servants and most of the arts world.

British politics used to be self-regulating. If an interest group lost out under one party, it could reasonably expect the other party to win power before too long and redress the grievance. But by the next election, these "losers" could have been at the wrong end of government policy for 18 years, with no certainty even then of a change.

Political parties have tended to believe that, even with an electoral system that gives them majorities in the Commons with a minority of the vote, they have a mandate to enact their manifesto commitments once in power. That is a fair argument when government regularly changes hands. But when one party holds power for a generation, it should become more sensitive to those who are not its natural supporters.

The Scots and Welsh have the strongest case. Not since 1955 have the Scots voted predominantly Conservative, and the Welsh have never done so this century. Yet for 26 of the 37 years since 1955, they have been ruled from Whitehall by Tories. The usual argu-

ment in a democracy against dissenters taking power into their own hands is that, if they want change, they must vote for it. In this year's election, 74 per cent of Scots and 71 per cent of the Welsh voted for parties that promised either devolution or independence. Yet self-government is still denied them. No wonder they are frustrated.

Local authorities too are understandably angry about the seizure of their power by the centre. Their democratic credentials are no less legitimate than those of central government, yet their autonomy has been whittled away by law after another.

Other interest groups, such as teachers or farmers, have less of a case. When teachers claim that career appraisal should not penalise poor performers, they are arguing against the interests of the pupils they are supposed to serve. When farmers complain about the dismantling of an agricultural policy that has subsidised them for decades at the expense of everybody who buys food, they too are arguing selfishly.

The government needs not give in to such special pleading. But if John Major wants a classless society and a country at ease with itself, he must acknowledge that the grievances of some of the groups that have been left in the cold by a Conservative government are legitimate. With a fourth parliamentary term come extra responsibilities.

Mr Major is clearly beginning to realise this. In the last Budget, he gave discretionary help to those on low incomes. He has appointed conciliators to see through the education and health reforms. But he still has to rethink the distribution of power within Britain.

The longer the Conservatives remain in government, the more the country needs pluralism at other levels. In his reform of local government, Mr Major should be generous in handing powers back to local people. And he can no longer completely ignore the strength of the Welsh and Scottish calls for self-government. Democracy can still thrive when one party rules, but only if it is a party for all the nation.

## RESCUING GATT

The world has never had more riding on a rapid resumption of strong economic growth. Without it, Eastern Europe and the states of the former Soviet Union have scant hope of extricating themselves from the mess bequeathed them by communism; nor will the countries in Latin America and Africa which have embarked on equally ambitious economic reforms find the markets they need for export-led recovery. Stability in Europe, key to President Bush's new world order and Jacques Delors' ambitions for enlarging the European Community, depends on a robust expansion in output and trade.

The Americans, worried that the US economy could slip back into the recession from which it is emerging, will appeal to the Group of Seven finance ministers in Washington on Thursday to join in a co-ordinated strategy to boost growth this year beyond the inadequate 1.5 per cent predicted by the International Monetary Fund. But they will be wasting their breath unless the US and the EC first succeed, tomorrow at the White House, in breaking their deadlock over farm subsidies. This trivial and unnecessary dispute — trivial because agriculture is the key to prosperity for neither side, unnecessary because so little now divides them — is wrecking the prospects for concluding the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Uruguay Round of global trade negotiations and with it, the world's best hope of an export-led boom.

Tomorrow's meeting brings together Mr Bush, M Delors and Antônio Cavaco Silva, the prime minister of Portugal, currently president of the EC. These three have the power to succeed where their technicians have been failing for more than five years. The Americans, who have already given much ground, may offer further assurances to the EC on one of the points at issue, the EC's insistence that it must be free to pay its farmers direct income support as part of its plans to reform the common agricultural policy. But there will be no deal unless M Delors decides to put Europe's well-being above whatever ambitions he nurtures for his future career in French politics, and over-

rideres the objections of Paris to the very principle of freezing agricultural trade.

A week ago, M Delors told Mr Bush that the two sides were "very close" to agreement. Days later, his spokesman was saying that nothing indicated that an accord could be reached in Washington. There could be no clearer indication that the obstacle is political, not technical. M Delors seems no more courageous than the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, when it comes to facing down the French. Here CAP reform and GATT merge. M Delors knows better than anyone that the EC must rid itself of the corruption and economic lunacy of its farm policy for the sake of its consumers, its unemployed, and its competitiveness on world markets. He should be seizing on the GATT negotiations as an opportunity to hasten CAP reform, particularly since the GATT proposals are broadly compatible with that objective.

A saner agricultural policy would be a gain in itself. But the stakes in the Uruguay Round are vastly greater. The EC, which accounts for 40 per cent of world trade, cannot afford to put at risk the liberal post-war trading system. Delay in concluding the round is already affecting business confidence, as 120 of the world's leading corporations gave warning last week. The surge of protectionism that would accompany its collapse could cost the EC £80 billion a year in higher consumer prices, to say nothing of lost jobs in export industries. And the EC should not fool itself that there can be a deal without a firm commitment on farm trade: it is the cornerstone of European good faith for many of the 108 countries involved.

This negotiation is the responsibility of the European Commission, not its 12 member states. It is a test, so far miserably failed, of collective EC foreign policy. The whole six-year negotiation is starting to unravel, and Mr Bush is running out of the negotiating time granted him by Congress. M Delors has grand dreams for the EC. This week will show whether he has the statesmanship to end the dispute that puts all of them in jeopardy.

## AIL FOR AIDS

Taylor, was there to add glitz and the moral authority of her AIDS campaigning. Wembley charity spectaculars are becoming an annual fixture in the rock world. Everyone benefits. The stars can afford to play for free because the publicity is more than money can buy and the glow of having contributed to a good cause disarms many a barbed criticism of an often exploitative and amoral lifestyle. Charities see a way of getting their message across to millions, swaying public opinion and raising substantial sums from television and video rights. Fans can indulge for three hours in some of the best in rock, which can now be broadcast to a billion people simultaneously.

Britain has discovered a talent for these global spectacles. As with the London marathon, British organisers are experienced, know the market and can turn a burst of enthusiasm into a properly costed operation. English is overwhelmingly the language of pop, and British groups are still among the world's best. Britain is in the right time-zone to broadcast both east and west.

The Wembley charity rock concert mix the untapped idealism of thousands of ordinary people with their determination to have a good time. They play publicity for the huge sums it is worth. And in a cynical world, the global message performs an almost evangelising function in raising awareness of other people's suffering.

Aids may be modish in Hollywood but it is still so taboo that most pop singers have shunned Aids charities. That changed yesterday. The parade of personalities on stage was like a rock *'Who's Who'*. Even Mrs Larry Fortensky, better known as Elizabeth

## ELECTION PERSPECTIVE AS DUST SETTLES

From Mr P. H. Twyman

Sir, Your leader of April 15, "As the dust settles", touches upon an aspect of the general election campaign which has been missed by the pollsters and the pundits.

The Conservative party campaign from the centre may have seemed a shambles, as you say; but down at the "grass roots", in most individual constituencies, the local party machinery operated by voluntary workers worked extremely effectively.

As a party activist with connections throughout the country, I can say that the voluntary effort was much better organised than the general election of 1987 or the European elections of 1989. Volunteers were better trained. Mutual aid, whereby strong constituencies helped in the marginal constituencies, was much better co-ordinated.

The result was that any wavering amongst known Conservative supporters was persuaded to vote for the party by a succession of "knockers up", calling on them throughout the day. One cannot help thinking that this effort, as much as glossy advertising or "spin-doctoring", led to the Conservative successes in marginal constituencies.

Yours etc.,

P. H. TWYMAN,  
Thrift House,  
129 Minnis Road,  
Birchinghan, Kent.  
April 15.

From Dr Stephen Howe

Sir, Dr Brian Harrison (letter, April 15) rightly respects as one of the finest historians of modern Britain. It is saddening therefore, that at a time when constitutional traditionalism and the reforming impulse are increasingly sharply counterposed, he should be found defending the last ditch of protectionism.

His proposal for an anti-Conservative pact in order to preserve our present electoral and constitutional arrangements is simply perverse. Such a pact would have no principled basis. It would be seen by the electorate, and doubtless rejected, for what would be a cynical and desperate play by politicians united only in their anti-Toryism.

The only viable ground for a Labour/Lib Dem/Nationalist alliance is quite the reverse: united on an agreed programme of electoral and constitutional reform and making the next election, in effect, a referendum on such proposals.

Dr Harrison's contention that the constitutional *status quo* "maximises the political impact of the voter" is simply untrue. At best, it maximises and distorts the impact of a small number of floating voters in a handful of marginal seats. And to say that it "accords with our parliamentary and national traditions" is a mere tautology.

Dr Harrison does not mention Scotland. Possibly the climate of opinion there is so wildly at odds with

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## EXTENDED RIGHTS OF AUDIENCE IN COURT

From Mr Clive R. Kelly

Sir, I am a solicitor, admitted in 1957, employed in commerce and industry, with no strong desire to blossom into active advocacy — although with some modest experience. Professionally, I am able to be employed and to engage in private practice.

The Griffiths committee, I assume, would accept my appearing in a higher court for a private client, but not for my employer. What an insult to my employer's choice of professional representation. What an impertinence to my professional integrity. No wonder that lawyers in jurisdictions with enjoyment of dual rights of audience view us with varying airs of disbelief!

The reasoning in your leader, "An unjustified bar" (April 15) is correct. To conclude otherwise would indeed confirm Dickens's view that, if so, "the Law is a Ass!"

Yours faithfully,

C. R. KELLY,  
22 Aylestone Avenue, NW6.  
April 15.

From Mr Paul Thomas and  
Mr Robert M. Downey

Sir, Whilst we fully support the view expressed by the Lord Chancellor's advisory committee that advocates need to show the necessary objectivity and expertise, solicitors in local government and in commerce and industry frequently demonstrate these qualities by their appearance in courts and tribunals throughout England and Wales.

The suggestion that they lack them, and that they should therefore be deprived of rights of audience in the higher courts, is extraordinary and must be strongly refuted. All solicitors have to respect the Law Society's professional code of conduct and are paid to do their best for their clients within the law.

Yours sincerely,

PAUL THOMAS  
(Chairman,  
Local Government Group),  
R. M. DOWNEY  
(Chairman,  
Commerce and Industry Group),  
The Law Society,  
113 Chancery Lane, WC2.  
April 15.

From Mr M. G. J. Hine

Sir, You decry as a "hollow point" the view of the Griffiths committee that employed solicitors by virtue of their employment, could not show the requisite degree of impartiality and objectivity to exercise rights of advocacy in the higher courts. As a justification for this view, you refer to the sanction available to the Law Society (more accurately, I believe, the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal, a branch of the High Court) to strike off a miscreant solicitor.

Quite rightly, before a solicitor (whether employed or in private practice) is struck off, a complaint of

some weight and particularity has to be made out and the solicitor afforded an opportunity to respond.

The progress of an employed solicitor's career can also be impeded by an unfavourable management perception of his performance which might not be conveyed to him, still less personalised.

Which of these factors do you suppose has a more immediate relevance to an employed solicitor's daily professional conduct?

Doing one's best for the client sometimes involves giving unpatriotic and robust advice, which is best given at arm's length. An independent solicitor may thereby lose one client. An employed solicitor may lose his job; but more likely, and more perniciously, he may unwittingly damage his career prospects with that employer.

As one who was formerly employed as a solicitor in local government and is now in private practice, I have an appreciation of what are very real problems. They may be capable of being resolved; but, first, they must be recognised as being of some substance and not simply dismissed as being "hollow".

Yours faithfully,

GREGORY HINE,  
Michael Hayes, Hine & Co.  
(Solicitors),  
58 Leigh Road,  
Easleigh, Hampshire.  
April 15.

From Mr Stephen Hall-Jones

Sir, If we at the Bar are to survive as a separate profession, we shall have to tailor our "products" to meet the changing circumstances by developing new sciences, widening the range of our existing services and increasing the depth of our specialisations.

Litigation support and trial management is one possible area of expansion; the *ad hoc* supply of advisory services on a transactional basis is another. Even in criminal practice there will still be a need for specialist, freelance consultant advocates in fields such as business crime and other offences requiring more technical and forensic skills than the average generalist advocate can bring to the table.

Generalist work, whether in the advisory or advocacy fields, will inevitably be conducted by solicitors and solicitor-advocates. Provided, however, that barristers are willing to turn to work which does not always involve in-court advocacy but demands a broader mix of specialist advisory, advocacy and other consultancy services in contentious matters, there will continue to be a demand for such services and a justification for an independent Bar. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant.

STEPHEN HALL-JONES,  
3 King's Bench Walk,  
Temple, EC4.  
April 17.

## BRIDGE OVER THE ARNO

From Professor Emeritus Kenneth Kirkwood

Sir, John Phillips reports from Rome (April 14) that "during the second world war German troops blew up other bridges across the Arno... but did not consider the narrow Ponte Vecchio [in Florence] of sufficient strategic value to warrant destruction."

Though true that the Ponte Vecchio was not totally destroyed, like its neighbours to east and west, it was nevertheless damaged by the extensive demolition of the buildings upon it. The shops were wrecked and mined and booby-trapped. German explosive charges also created a mountain of rubble to obstruct the immediate approaches.

If buses must be routed along the Arno adjoining the Ponte Vecchio one must hope that urgent attention is given to its safe-guarding. In Oxford there is concern about damage to ancient buildings from buses, but the latter were fortunately never subject to wartime high explosives of comparable force.

Yours truly,  
KENNETH KIRKWOOD,  
233 Woodstock Road,  
Oxford.  
April 14.

From Mr C. N. Beattie, QC

Sir, Your Rome correspondent states that during the Allied advance in the second world war the Germans did not consider the narrow Ponte Vecchio in Florence of sufficient strategic value to warrant destruction.

I venture to think that it had great strategic value which the Germans countered, not by blowing up the bridge itself, which was a magnificent antiquity, but by blowing up the apartment blocks at the north end of the bridge, thus blocking the north road with rubble ten feet deep.

I, as a British army liaison officer with the Americans, on whose sector of the front Florence lay, well remember my vehicle nosed into the rubble, climbing over, and entering Florence on foot.

Brussels would gain more credibility

if it avowed federalist aims

if it did something to force some change

on these byzantine bureaucracies

which remain accountable to no one,

least of all the poor individuals

caught in their maw.

Yours faithfully,

LUCIAN COMOY.

via Montesanto 27

Piazzano.

15020 Fr. Caselsanpietro AL, Italy.

Italian one which is identical). The next step is to procure a certificate

declaring I have never been to jail.

Then I go to another office which

takes all of this, my tax number,

passport details and the equivalent of

£90 and makes me wait six months,

during which time I have no right to

drive as I have no licence.

What can be the point of the Brussels mandarins waving their wands if countries such as Italy are allowed to maintain this obstructiveness in the face of straightforward requests from EC citizens?

Brussels would gain more credibility

if it avowed federalist aims

if it did something to force some change

on these byzantine bureaucracies



## OBITUARIES

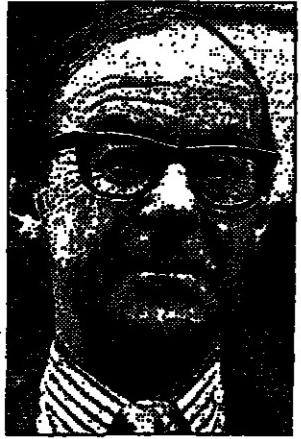
SIR WILLIAM  
McEWAN YOUNGER

Sir William McEwan Younger, DSO, DL, brewer, died on April 15 aged 86. He was born on September 6, 1905.

WILLIAM McEwan Younger played a significant role in the commercial and political life of Scotland in the 1960s and 1970s. He was chairman of Scottish and Newcastle Breweries from 1960 to 1969 and managing director for all but the last two of those years and was the dominant force in extending the brewery's interests nationally.

A man of strong and independent views, he had no brief for the received wisdom of the brewing industry of the day, which relied on expansion by acquisition of tied trade in tenanted houses through the issue of share capital. He was a convinced free trader in every sense of the term and a strong believer in competition. Acquisition was by organic growth and the use of cash, and market share was to be gained by the development of strong brands and the use of clever marketing. His prime strategy in building up the brewery was to seek outlets in free houses, rather than for it to build its own chain of public houses. He was a pioneer in the use of cans, and when he retired in 1969 Scottish and Newcastle had almost ten per cent of the beer trade in the UK while possessing only a few hundred tied or managed houses.

When an opportunity was offered to join with Tennents, and thus make a combine



that could totally dominate the brewing industry in Scotland, he refused it, saying it would eliminate competition and thus be bad for both customer and producer.

Though difficult to the point of shyness in personal relationships, his extraordinary business self-confidence and original mind made him an inspiring boss to work for, and he backed his subordinates to the hilt if they used their own initiative.

Born at Melrose, William McEwan Younger was brought up on the banks of the Tweed. He was educated at Winchester and Balliol

College, Oxford, where he developed a life-long love of mountaineering. In later life he was elected an honorary fellow of Balliol. On leaving Oxford he succeeded his father in the family firm of William McEwan, the Edinburgh brewers which had been started by his great-uncle.

During the second world war he commanded successively the 40th Light AA Battery and the 14th Light AA Regiment RA, taking part in all the North African campaigns, the landing at Salerno and the Italian campaign. He achieved great distinction during the first siege of Tobruk when the battery he commanded successfully beat off repeated Stuka attacks, claiming more than 50 enemy aircraft. For this he was awarded the DSO.

After the war he returned to Edinburgh and set about reviving the brewing industry in Scotland. Under his leadership the integration of McEwan's and William Younger's was completed, followed by the absorptions of Bernard's, Morrison's and the Robert Younger's breweries and finally a merger with Newcastle Breweries in 1961 to form Scottish and Newcastle Breweries. By nature and upbringing a Conservative of the "one nation" variety, he stood unsuccessfully as a parliamentary candidate for West Lothian. He continued to take an active part in Conservative politics for many years. He was an enthusiastic supporter of Edward Heath's leadership and was chairman of the Conservative party in Scotland from 1971 to 1974, for which he was made a baronet.

Always a radical in political thought, he was a founder member of, and major contributor to, the Institute of Economic Affairs. He was on the board of the British Linen Bank, the Scottish Widows Fund and Life Assurance Society, and Scottish Television and was a particularly successful chairman of the Second Scottish Investment Trust. He was actively involved in assisting his fellow Scots to take advantage of the industrial changes taking place internationally, helping to devise a scheme to enable industrialists, planners and trade unionists to meet their foreign counterparts. He was a founder and chairman of the Highland Tourist (Cairngorm) Development Ltd.

A notable contributor to charity he gave his house at Balerno to be a school for the Save the Children Fund. He was married first to Nora Balfour from whom he was divorced in 1967, and by whom he had one daughter, Caroline, and then to June Peck, who nursed him with devoted attention through his last illness.

**ALFREDA HODGSON**

Alfreda Hodgson, British mezzo, died on April 17 aged 51. She was born at Morecambe on June 7, 1940.

ALFREDA Hodgson was one of the most sought after soloists in oratoria over the past 25 years. She was a distinguished singer in the Bach Passions and Handel's *Messiah*, a radiant Angel in Elgar's *The Dream of Geronius*, a fine Magdalene in the same composer's *The Apostles*, and one of the most authoritative interpreters of the mezzo parts in works by Mahler and Britten. There

A particular pleasure was given by her duo programmes with the soprano Sheila Armstrong. In these she exhibited her natural gift for humour. Her final appearances took place in January when she was already ill with the cancer that killed her. She bore her illness with courage and good cheer, qualities that always marked her singing.

Her voice, although capable of ranging high, was dark-hued in timbre. She used it at all times with consummate artistry. Although it was not large, it carried well in big halls because her tone was so well focused. She has left as a memorial of her art recordings of *The Dream of Geronius* under Sir Alexander Gibson, *The Apostles* under Richard Hickox, *Das Lied von der Erde*, also with Gibson, and a lovely recital record, made in 1980, on which she sings, among other works, Britten's *Charm of Lullabies* and Brahms's Two Songs with Viola.

She is survived by her husband, the music teacher Paul Blissett, and their two daughters.

She studied at the Royal

## VAKHTANG CHABUKIANI

Vakhtang Chabukiani, the greatest male dancer of his generation, died of a heart condition in Tbilisi, Georgia, on April 5 aged 82. He was born in Tbilisi on March 12, 1910.

WITHIN one month, three of the men who transformed Russian ballet from its imperial past to its revolutionary fervour have died: Asaf Messerer in Moscow, Konstantin Sergeyev in Leningrad and now Vakhtang Chabukiani in his native Georgia. All were well advanced in years and although they were still active as teachers or producers (the Mariinsky Ballet's brilliant young star Zelenitsky is a pupil of Chabukiani's) their great contribution lay in the field of theory.

It has to be said, however, that they were giants who bestride the world of art. Men in ballet today, all over the world, dance differently (and better) for their influence, but only a handful of their successors can be ranked alongside them.

Vakhtang Chabukiani was, by genuine consensus, the finest of them, unmatched for his fiery personality, his virtuosity, his ideal physique and manly bearing, and his ability to combine dramatic and dancing skills over a wide range of roles. As a choreographer and director, too, he showed forceful talent. He never danced in Britain, and only on two occasions in America: as a young dancer sent with a partner in 1934 for a concert tour marking a political agreement between the two countries, and 30 years later towards the end of his career when he was still able to enjoy success in the famous *pas de deux* from *The Corsair*. But films of his dancing and the evidence of the roles created for him (often his own choreography) confirm the awed admiration of contemporary critics.

Three qualities in particular were repeatedly described. First, the sheer virtuosity of his dancing; the way he could soar around the stage in tempestuous leaps which were compared with an eagle's flight, or the fact that he turned so fast in pirouettes that the spectator's eye was dazzled. Second, the way he used his dance skills to theatrical effect, whether to play a war-like mountain chieftain in one of his own ballets, or to breathe new vigour into the traditional classical roles. And underlying all this, a very virile, dominating presence; nobody found it the least odd that, following Georgian custom, he insisted on keeping his moustache even when dancing the conventional old classics.

Chabukiani was born into a poor family and from the age of nine was put to making baskets and toys to eke out their income. Delivering some of these at Christmas to the only ballet school in Tbilisi, his appearance caught the eye of the teacher, Maria Pernini, who began giving him free lessons where his talent at once became obvious.

When he was 14, two visiting dancers from Leningrad persuaded him that he needed to study there, but it was another two years before he could make the journey. He was too old for acceptance in the famous school, his earliest studies being thought insufficient, but he began (like Sergeyev) in the evening course that had been set up for late starters. However, his zeal, flair, intelligence and hard work enabled him to complete the full course in three years, only the last of which was full time.

Accepted in the State Academic (later Kirov) Theatre in 1929, he was given important solos at once, in Lopukhov's *Ice Maiden* and the *pas de trois* in *Swan Lake*; before the end of his first season he danced Siegfried in the latter work. This was the first of many big leading roles in quick succession, as Basil in *Don Quixote*, in the grand *pas de Raymonda*, Albrecht in *Giselle* and Bluebird in *The Sleeping Beauty*, all within three years.

Agrippina Vaganova, the great teacher in Leningrad at that time, encouraged Chabukiani to strive for increasingly difficult virtuous effects, and when she revived Petipa's *Esmeralda* in 1935 the changes she introduced included a new showpiece duet, *Diana and Acteon*, for Ulanova and Chabukiani which has since entered the international repertoire. The version of the *Corsair pas de deux* widely known today was also made



Vakhtang Chabukiani in the role of Othello

with Chabukiani's exceptional gifts in mind and the choreography for the man's solo is by him. Although the Communist government had accepted that preserving the classical heritage for a new, wider audience was important, pride of place went to building a new repertoire, and Chabukiani had leading roles in many of the historic creations of the 1930s. They included the Sportsman in *The Golden Age*, Jerome in *The Flames of Paris* and Vasav in *The Fountain of Bakhchisarai*, besides parts at international festivals in Vienna (1938) and Paris (1966).

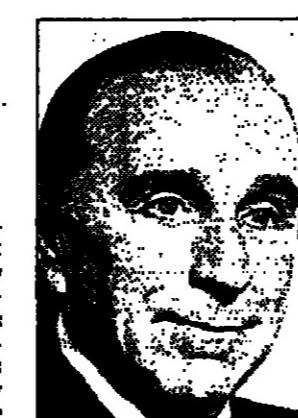
Not content with contributing as a performer to these epoch-making works by Lopukhov, Vainonen, Zalkharov and others, Chabukiani also became a choreographer (usually dancing the leading male role too). His first attempt was a bravura solo for himself, *The Fire Dance*, to music by Rubinstein. At the height of his fame, Chabukiani returned during the war to Tbilisi and to become for the next 30 years director, choreographer and for a long time leading dancer at the Palashvili Opera House, devoting his great gifts and his patriotic fervour to building a national ballet for Georgia which achieved a standard that he could present with pride at international festivals in Vienna (1958) and Paris (1966).

The many ballets he created in Tbilisi included several on national themes, such as *Sinatra* and *Gorda*, also *The Demon*, based on Lermontov's poem, and a masterly treatment of *Othello* (1957) in which the power and intensity of his own performance in the title part were unmatched.

Chabukiani remained in demand for performances in Moscow and Leningrad, and in 1947 he was responsible for a revival of *La Bayadère* at the Kirov theatre which substantially reshaped the ballet into the form best known today and much increased the bravura demands on its leading man.

When Rudolf Nureyev first burst upon the ballet scene in Leningrad in 1958, it was Chabukiani's choreography that gave him his first successes, and memories of Chabukiani in his prime to whom informed spectators turned as a standard of judgement. By coincidence the two men had much in common in their backgrounds as well as in their dancing. lamentably, Chabukiani's gifts were not so widely seen, but his patriotic pride put the city of Tbilisi firmly in the history of ballet. His achievements brought many honours, among them the rare title of People's Artist of the USSR.

**HENRY KREMER**



Henry Kremer, British industrialist and sponsor of man-powered flight, died at his home in Israel on April 8 aged 84. He was born in Dvinsk (now Daugavpils) Latvia on May 8, 1908.

HENRY Kremer, like Leonardo da Vinci, believed that man should be able to fly using the power of his muscles. Although an ingenious inventor, such a feat was beyond him but Kremer was prepared to put his money where his mouth was. He promoted the ancient dream by offering cash prizes and development grants for the first person to achieve it.

The first cash prize was offered in 1959 when he donated £5,000 to be administered by the man-powered flight group of the Royal Aeronautical Society for a figure-of-eight flight round two markers half a mile apart.

Over the next 27 years

Kremer's personal sponsorship led to short flights, completion of a figure-of-eight course and the spectacular Channel crossing in 1979.

During that period his sponsorship amounted to more than £150,000. He realised that this was the first real step in human-powered flight and publicity. Kremer was a self-effacing man who avoided the limelight.

In 1974 he took over the

concept of the "wheelbarrow" to approach suspected terrorist bombs and, although production was assigned to another company, he made the first usable version. In 1979, in conjunction with the Fighting Vehicles Research Establishment, he developed the hydrogas suspension system produced for the Challenger tank and specified for the Chieftain.

Kremer made a lifetime pursuit of physical fitness and this helped lead him to the belief that with the right aircraft a trained athlete could achieve the ultimate — man-powered flight. He realised, too, that the best way he could contribute to the achievement of this goal would be by developing the financial incentives.

It is doubtful that human-powered flight would have been achieved and developed to the extent it has been without the encouragement and support of Henry Kremer. The Royal Aeronautical Society honoured him with Companionship in 1975, and in 1988 the Federation Aéronautique Internationale presented him with its highest award, the Gold Air Medal, and later made him a Companion of Honour of the FAI.

He is survived by his wife Norah, two sons and two daughters.

## APPRECIATIONS

Dr Peter  
Mitchell

PETER Mitchell (obituary, April 15) possessed a penetrating intellect and a dazzling intuition. For me, no scientist stands so firmly as a model for all scientists. I am not alone in this feeling, and I shall try to describe why this is so.

The 1978 Nobel prize for chemistry was awarded to Mitchell for formulating the theory that correctly describes biological energy transfer from food nutrients or light to adenosine triphosphate (ATP), the useful energy currency of the cell. When Mitchell first set forth this elegant hypothesis, in a paper published in *Nature* in 1961, it was entirely without experimental support. It was also a radical departure from prevailing dogma and was opposed by the world's leading biochemists. Only after nearly two decades of vigorous debate and intense experimentation was the hypothesis generally accepted and elevated to the status of theory.

The Nobel prizes are awarded for work that has had a major impact on research and understanding. They are normally awarded for an act of discovery or for the development of an important new technique. Mitchell was awarded the prize for a pure act of the imagination. Moreover, the work for which he was honoured followed in the most perfect sense the scientific method. The idea came first, and each element of his hypothesis was constructed in such a way as to be amenable to refutation by experiment.

As an undergraduate, I had been captivated by the power and simplicity of the scientific method and believed strongly that careful hypothesis-building was a prerequisite for experimental design. Nevertheless, it seemed to me that this great ideal of scientific practice was more honoured in the breach than in the observance. Mitchell put the horse squarely in front of the cart, and I read his paper in a state of stunned and grateful recognition. His achievement is a constant inspiration to scientists, not merely because his marvellous intuition eventually proved to be correct, but also because of the purity of this method.

Keith Garid

## Norman Bruce

WHEN Colonel Norman Bruce (obituary, April 1) retired from the army and moved to Shropshire to take up a teaching post at Presteigne Preparatory School in Shrewsbury, he gave much pleasure to so many boys who did not excel at such a young age, when one is continually being flattened by boys twice your size and weight. Yet with Norman Bruce, you always wanted to jump back up onto your feet to avoid being reprimanded by that loud, barking Scottish voice.

David Walker  
Presteigne School  
(1978-84)

## April 21 ON THIS DAY 1925

## MOTOR TRACKS TO SOUTH COAST.

## To the Editor of The Times

Sir, it is something of an irony that, following the excellent letter by Professor Abercrombie bewailing the encroachment of towns on country, we should immediately get the "London and South Coast Motorways" promoting a Bill in Parliament to penetrate the most secluded parts of Surrey and Sussex.

It seems unnecessary to call public attention to the very serious consequences that will result should such a scheme as that proposed for connecting London with Brighton, Portsmouth and Southampton materialise.

A motor track necessarily wide and direct cannot be constructed through a country like Surrey without considerable cutting and filling; moreover, it will be complicated with specially arranged and frequent crossings, and altogether will strike a harsher note on the rural character of the scenery than did the railways in 1830.

Again, it may be asked, are such roads necessary, and is it wise to encourage such a proposal having regard to the well-considered system of national roads that is being rapidly developed? One advantage of such a scheme, so the promoters suggest, would be "relief" to the ratepayers by lifting from the rates some of the burden of maintaining the present roads,

which are so seriously dam-

aged by heavy motor traffic."

This statement, is, at least misleading.

It is well known that 50 per cent, and in some cases 75 per cent, of the cost of the improvement and maintenance of those arterial roads is borne by the motorist, who, by direct taxation, provides the 15 million which the Ministry of Transport is contributing annually towards roads throughout the country.

On the whole, very excellent work is being done by local authorities mainly in the way roads are being relieved, the unemployed are given work, and a national system of roads is developing based on a wise use of roads that exist already.

But quite apart from the questions of economics and the general disfigurement of the scenery, the actual amount of depreciation to thousands of very beautiful estates will be beyond calculation. Surrey and Sussex are today the most important residential counties of the well-to-do. Driven from the suburbs, they have invested large sums of money to secure a rural retreat. But this is not all.

As regards the interests of the private motorists and the user of the charabanc, whose run into the country is really an escape from Town — to these the spoliation would be as depressing as it was unforeseen.

Commercial vehicles will not use it, because the present roads conveniently tap established places of call en route. And what are the advantages? A few swift cars will be enabled to rush to Brighton perhaps half an hour quicker than they could by the public way; special lines of fast-running public vehicles, which will in the end be nothing more than slow railways, will assist in converting agricultural land into building land; and the spread of the urban population which follows the making of a railway will be emphasized, only in a much more destructive way.

Yours faithfully,

S.D. ADSHEAD.  
University of London,  
University College, Gower  
Street, WC1. April 20.



# THE TIMES BUSINESS

TUESDAY APRIL 21 1992

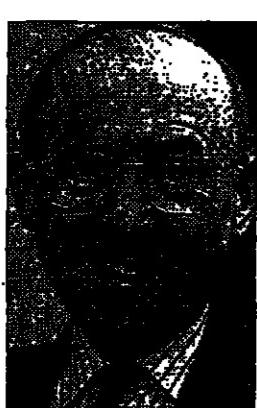
BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

## MAN OF THE WEEK

**James checks in for long haul**

**D**ing done. Dan Air would like to inform shareholders of a delay to the departure of David James, its scheduled service to a profitable future. Dan Air, delays, and an overcrowded Gatwick airport — it is hard to imagine a package holiday without them. Even the groans greeting the delays have an air of inevitability. But the announcement that David James, chairman of Davies & Newman, Dan Air's parent, has delayed his departure is more likely to be met with cheers, especially from D&N's long-suffering shareholders. For Dan Air is changing and the man doing the changing is Mr James.

According to the peripatetic, love 'em and leave 'em lifestyle of the



James: delay cheered

company doctor, tomorrow's results should have seen him long gone. D&N's financial future was secured six months ago when he sought £40 million of new equity to repair the ravages of recession and war and coolly came up with £54 million. The perfect moment to fly off into the corporate sunset leaving shareholders bathed in admiration.

Mr James, however, appears to have caught the flying bug and will tomorrow confirm that he is there for the long haul, not just as chairman of D&N but also of the airline. The day to day piloting he will pass on to John Olsen, the former Cathay Pacific manager who began work as Dan Air's chief executive last week. But Mr James plans to keep in close radio contact.

**J**ust how long a haul it might be should also become apparent with losses of £35 million forecast and possibly more given the harsh climate that has coincided with the airline's shift from charters to scheduled services.

The more permanent relationship will cost Mr James dear. His £1,000 a day consultancy fee will fall to £90,000 a year, although Mr Olsen's arrival should leave him with time to tackle Lep Group, his next and doubtless lucrative reconstruction. But in the mean time all he wants to hear is "Dan Air, you are cleared for financial take-off. But it wouldn't be the same with a little delay."

MATTHEW BOND

## THE FOUND

US dollar 1.7470 (-0.0148)  
German mark 2.9131 (-0.0053)  
Exchange index 91.6 (-0.3)  
Bank of England official close (Thursday 4pm)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2059.2 (+6.2)  
FT-SE 100 2638.6 (-1.6)  
New York Dow Jones 3347.27 (-19.23)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 17071.36 (-509.33)  
† Thursday's close midday price.

1X

**Indiana firm will take month to decide**

## US visit fuels jobs hope at Ravenscraig

By MARTIN WALLER AND KERRY GILL

**A**N AMERICAN company is today visiting the Ravenscraig steel plant, near Glasgow, which is due to close in September. It might consider making an offer for parts of the site that could save some hundreds of the plant's 1,200 jobs.

The visit by Nucor, an Indiana steel company, has been organised by Scottish Enterprise, formerly the Scottish Development Agency. Scottish Enterprise was entrusted with marketing the site when British Steel decided in January to close the plant.

It is clear, however, that there can never be a return to the days when Ravenscraig employed thousands of people and was one of Scotland's centres of industrial production. Nucor has only limited plans for the site.

America's seventh-largest steel producer, Nucor is known to want a foothold in Europe and was approached by Scottish Enterprise some months ago. A team of seven arrives today to look into the viability of steelmaking using

new technology at Ravenscraig. It will also visit the linked Hunterston oil terminal, on the Ayrshire coast, during a six-day tour.

Details of the trip have been kept secret and British Steel made Nucor sign a confidentiality document.

British Steel is playing down the chances of a last-ditch rescue, describing Nucor's visit as "a pre-feasibility study".

Keith Busse, Nucor's vice-president and general manager, said: "We are going to look at the viability and finance of production of liquid steel. We will be at Ravenscraig for two full days and will also visit Hunterston before departing on Sunday."

He said findings would be evaluated at the company's headquarters and it would be a month before a firm decision could be reached to establish a liquid steel production works on the site.

Nucor's interest will be seized on as a chance to provide a modest number of jobs. If nothing comes of it, only the plain rolling mill at nearby Dazell will be left in Scotland. Even if the American

company establishes a works in Scotland, it could not compensate for the jobs that will go when British Steel shuts Ravenscraig. Up to 15,500 jobs could be lost in local support industries.

Scottish Enterprise and Lanarkshire development agency are working on regeneration schemes for the area. In the mid-1970s, Ravenscraig employed 13,000 people. The announcement by British Steel that the steel complex would be closed was followed by a pledge from John Major that the government would do all it could to cushion central Scotland's economy.

Nucor operates several so-called mini-mills, taking on scrap steel and melting it down into slabs that are sent to rolling mills. Such plants, producing about a million tonnes a year, employ at best a few hundred people.

Ravenscraig, by contrast,

has a much longer production line, taking in iron ore and coking coal at Hunterston, producing iron and then steel, which is rolled into strips. Capacity is three million tonnes of steel a year.

British Steel accepts that if Nucor is interested in taking over the site, or buying facilities there, the Americans must be given a hearing. If no other comes, British Steel insists that Ravenscraig must close in September. British Steel has already, with Scottish Enterprise, looked at the site being used by other industries. It has commissioned an environmental audit of what needs to be done to convert it to other uses.

"us," he said. Jeremy Bray, MP for Motherwell South, first approached Nucor some months ago. He flew to Indiana in February to look at Nucor's thin-slab casting mill, the only one of its kind in the world. In a report to the SDA in 1991, Arthur D Little, the consultant, said such a mill was one option for Ravenscraig, but added the proviso that the technology involved was not fully proven.

"We have no set timescale on making a decision," said Mr Iverson, "we will just move as rapidly as possible." But even if Nucor decides to go ahead, some hundreds of jobs will be lost.

Mr Iverson says the process

it is considering needs less than half the jobs of traditional steel rolling. Any attempt by Nucor to revitalise Ravenscraig would be its first venture outside America.

The troubled mill

The troubled mill

## Early days yet for studying incentives

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

**T**HE management at Nucor Corporation, America's seventh-largest steelmaker, yesterday told *The Times* that the company had not yet discussed any incentives that might be available to save jobs at Ravenscraig.

Kenneth Iverson, Nucor chairman and chief executive, confirmed from his headquarters in Indiana that the move was in its early stages. "We have a team there studying the detail and looking at the feasibility of building a thin slab casting mill at Ravenscraig."

Mr Iverson declined to comment on whether the company would be offered incentives to set up at Ravenscraig. "We haven't even started talking about that yet," he said, adding that the company had responded to approaches from Scotland. "We did not seek it. The Scottish Development Agency came to

## Cost of bomb 'less than £1bn'

By JONATHAN PRYNN

**T**HE Association of British Insurers said that the IRA bomb explosion in the City of London this month will cost the insurance industry "hundreds of millions" but no more than £1 billion.

It is still too early to give accurate forecasts for the size of the loss while repair work continues at the 45 companies affected by the bomb. However, if the association's forecast is accurate, the cost of blast would exceed the £600 million cost of the 1989 San Francisco earthquake.

The insurance of the build-

er, the insurance association's head of public affairs, said yesterday that "the signs are" that insurance premiums would not be affected by the cost of the blast.

"Premiums have already gone up over the past couple of years and it should not be necessary to put them up again," Mr Baker said.

He described as "wildly inaccurate and unsubstantiated guesswork" earlier reports that the cost would be £1.8 billion, and that the affected insurers would be unable to pay.

Another analyst, Mark



In the cockpit: James Giles runs International Aerospace, which won an award for test pilots' courses

### Another cash call likely for tunnel

By OUR CITY STAFF

**S**HAREHOLDERS in Eurotunnel are braced for another rights issue of perhaps £500 million on Friday when the Channel tunnel operator reports results for 1991. Eurotunnel has so far secured a total of £8.9 billion in funds.

In the last trading statement in October, the company said it foresaw a peak funding of £8.05 billion in 1996. Since then it has said it would be unable to meet its target opening date of June 15 1993.

This month, Eurotunnel was told by an independent arbitration panel to pay TML, the contractors' consortium £50 million extra a month on top of £25 million in scheduled payments. Eurotunnel has said it will appeal the order.

The company's consortium of 223 lending banks had assumed a November 1993 opening date. Some observers believe the delay cuts revenue projections by £200 million.

"They are running very tight," said Richard Hannan, transport analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew.

He does not exclude refinancing as an option and expects Eurotunnel to ask shareholders for an additional £500 million and banks for another £1 billion to £1.5 billion in loans.

Japanese banks, which provided some 30 per cent of Eurotunnel's loans, will be reluctant to commit fresh funds at a time when they are being squeezed at home, the City believes.

Farmac, one of the main contractors, announced last week that it had sold some share options in Eurotunnel for a profit of £6 million, fearing a further cash-raising exercise.

Another analyst, Mark McVicar at County NatWest, said it was too early to assess how much more would be needed to complete the project. "Until we know the outcome of any settlement with TML, it is extremely difficult to say whether and how much Eurotunnel would have to borrow," he said.

"The best thing for all parties ... is to get the thing finished and get cash flowing in. At the moment it's just a hole in the ground."

### Wall Street hurt as Nikkei tumbles

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

**D**ESPITE a flurry of official statements at the weekend designed to improve sentiment in the Tokyo stock market, the Nikkei 225 average dropped sharply yesterday, reinforcing fears that the Japanese market will remain volatile for some weeks.

The Nikkei average fell 509.33 points to close at 17,071.36, bellying officially voiced optimism from senior government quarters.

The further gloom from Tokyo combined with profit-taking to knock Wall Street from record levels. After three consecutive records, powered by sharp increases in first-quarter profits, the Dow Jones industrial average dropped 33.88 points by lunchtime, to 3,331.62. Some analysts have raised the possibility of a sustained Wall Street drop.

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### Export awards at a record

By DEREK HARRIS

**A** RECORD total of 127 Queen's Awards for export achievement have been given this year. There are also 38 winners of awards for technological achievement.

ICI won three awards, two of them for technological achievement. GEC-Marconi won a technology award for applying defence electronics expertise to satellite television receivers.

International Aerospace, of Cranfield, Bedfordshire, won an export award. The company, headed by James Giles, provides specialist training for test pilots.

Export awards also went to Nissan's United Kingdom car factory, Peugeot Talbot at Coventry and the Cosworth high-performance engines division of Vickers.

Businesses with fewer than 200 employees accounted for 65 per cent of awards. Invisible earners in the service industries accounted for 18 per cent of export winners.

Next year, there will be an award for products or processes benefiting the environment.

Special report, pages 19-24

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## Riva looks to improve with Dace at helm

RIVA, the troubled electronic point-of-sale (pos) equipment supplier, is hoping that better days lie ahead as David Dace, a non-executive director of ICL, takes the helm as non-executive chairman.

Mr Dace, 56, has 35 years' experience in the computer industry and was ICL's technical director until December. He joins Riva as shareholders prepare to vote on refinancing proposals that would leave the company's banks with 17.3 per cent of the enlarged share capital after a debt-for-equity swap.

Talks between Riva and its principal banks began after the company breached banking facilities in the final quarter of 1991 because of adverse trading conditions that left it unable to meet interest payments.

The difficulties can be traced to late 1989 when Riva acquired Hugin Sweda, an Anglo-Swedish manufacturer of pos equipment, for about £3 million. It was later found that Hugin Sweda had previously undiscovered liabilities of up to £12 million. At the time of the acquisition, Riva owed its principal lenders about £15.5 million. This was cut to £8.5 million.

After losing £697,000 before tax in 1989, the company earned profits of £78,000 in 1990 before the full extent of Hugin's problems surfaced. These were compounded by the recession in Britain, where important retailing customers stopped trading and others cut capital expenditure. As a result, Riva incurred an interim pre-tax loss of £1.07 million in the six months to the end of June. After failing to meet interest payments, Riva secured a standstill agreement as a prelude to refinancing proposals, which should result in an annual saving of £800,000 in interest charges.

These proposals, to be considered by shareholders at an extraordinary meeting next month, include the purchase by Tom Milne, the outgoing chairman, of debts of £659,481 owed by Riva to Scandinavia Bank. Mr Milne will advance a further £197,700 of his own money to Riva. Additionally, the banks and Mr Milne will convert debts of £4.22 million owed by Riva into convertible preference shares; the banks, meanwhile, will extend £6.25 million of term facilities.

The refinancing will dilute the investment of existing shareholders. But the company gives a warning that it is unlikely to be able to continue trading otherwise. Investors, who have seen the value of their shares shrink from 41p to 10p in the past year, will be inclined to agree that there is no other way forward.

MARTIN BARROW

## Strong medicine from the doctor nursing Stakis back to health

**Martin Waller**  
outlines the style  
of the man who  
brought Stakis  
back from the  
brink of disaster

FOR Stakis, one of the true basket cases in a leisure sector not short of corporate disasters a couple of years ago, to be talking in terms of expansion again might seem nothing short of a miracle.

The architect of that recovery is Sir Lewis Robertson, one of that breed of company doctors unavoidably replacing high-flying entrepreneurs at the City's dining tables of late, and as a canny Scot he is only talking cautious expansion, mind. The group is considering bringing in an outside partner to ensure sufficient firepower to develop its promising nursing homes.

So far Stakis has been approached by a big player in the American market, which is much more mature than in Britain, attracted by the potential and the 18 sites, mainly in the South East, with full planning permission lying idle while the group restructures its finances.

Stakis is looking at the Continent and in particular southern countries such as Spain, where attachment to the extended family is weakening but where they are still not as used to the idea of nursing homes as Britain or America.

The

18 sites are in the books at the full £35 million purchase price and one of the few items not written down since Sir Lewis arrived 14 months ago. If developed, at £3 million a site, they would double the number Stakis operates, concentrated at the top end of the market at premium locations in leafy suburbs able to command room rates of £340 a week.

Despite the group's dire financial state, with borrowings fast approaching £200



Architect of recovery: Sir Lewis Robertson, chairman of the Stakis group

million at one stage, Stakis has held out against selling the sites just as the three-year-old nursing homes operation approaches maturity, and the benefits, in the form of a 17 per cent return on capital employed, become apparent.

Stakis was the creation of Sir Leo Stakis, one of Scotland's best-known businessmen, but the company's de-

cline dates from the policy of diversification initiated a few years ago by his son, Andros. Sir Lewis concedes that one of those diversifications was the successful nursing home venture, but there is clearly little love lost between the two men since the ousting of Andros as chief executive, one of the new chairman's first acts. Andros is rumoured to be still sitting

in his Renfrewshire fastness, nursing hopes of a successful restoration of the dynasty. Sir Lewis is scathing about the mess he inherited and the need to put together for rescues.

"It is a sign of the times that while 1980s heroes were hit

squads of accountants smashing their way into underperforming companies, the corporate SWAT teams of the 1990s are more likely to be putting right their damage."

He says the first problem

is the proliferation of banks that had to be kept sweet

to put off the day of reckoning.

Despite the group's dire financial state, with borrowings fast approaching £200

during restructuring, 22 in all for a group whose turnover in its heyday never threatened £200 million. Like many finance groups that expanded fast in the 1980s boom years, funds were taken wherever they could be found, and some of the smaller lenders had been granted covenants quickly triggered when the company declined. That's not relationship banking — that's opportunistic banking. When the wind changes and things get tough, those banks can turn on you."

The next job was to find a chief executive, in the shape of David Michels, former deputy chairman of Hilton UK, who came on board in December. Since Sir Lewis arrived, he estimates 98 per cent of the senior management that had made Stakis so top-heavy have gone, along with their experts. Also gone are a slew of public houses and discotheques and a third of the commercial property. A significant reverse was the failure to sell the casinos for up to £100 million in a market knocked for six by the Gulf war, recession and forced offloading of clubs by other groups. "Selling the casinos was a quick fix for our financing problems. If that wasn't available, they are again entirely loved and wanted," says Sir Lewis.

Analysts say Stakis is not yet entirely out of the woods. Interim figures due on June 9 will not be pretty, and full-year profits are unlikely. But at least the wildest bid has died down, although this may merely reflect a general aversion to buying homes.

The Stakis rescue is Sir Lewis's seventh and, casinos aside, has gone by the book. So well qualified is he to write that book that he heads Postern, a group of company doctors put together for rescues.

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## Budget deficit may scare off foreign investors

**T**he election was a watershed for the market in gilt. Sizeable pent-up demand from domestic and foreign investors has been unleashed. Currency risk and fears of temporarily higher interest rates have been replaced by expectations of a firm anti-inflationary policy, including a move to ERM narrow bands.

Monetary union (EMU) remains the main driving force behind European bond markets, forcing convergence of bond yields. The key measure for gilts is the spread over Bunds. There has been a dramatic reversal since the election, with the spread of ten-year gilts over ten-year Bunds narrowing from a peak of 203 to 123 basis points. With sterling appreciating, the immediate outlook for gilts is positive and the spread over Bunds should narrow further.

There is, however, too much optimism about the prospects for EMU. The economic convergence criteria for EMU are extremely tough and, judging from the recent deterioration in budgetary positions throughout Europe, may take longer to achieve than envisaged. Furthermore, the trade-off for monetary union is likely to be continued tight monetary policies leading to permanently high unemployment throughout Europe. This is already leading to political tensions elsewhere, increasing the likelihood of an ERM realignment and possibly leading to a delay in the monetary union process.

UK political stability should, thus, give gilts a boost relative to other European bond markets, particularly in the run-up to monetary union. Longer dated gilts are likely to benefit from the policy stance resulting from the election. I expect policy to remain tight for some time. This is because there will be a need to reduce inflation and the budget deficit. Government policy will also be heavily influenced by the need to move the economy

**T**he trouble is that unless interest rates fall and there is a steady recovery, the budget deficit is likely to deteriorate. Already, the scale of the fiscal problem points to the likelihood of significant restraint in government spending in this year's autumn statement. Bank of England figures show that last year foreign investors bought a net £5.4 billion of gilts, compared with total net official sales of £9.2 billion.

They are expected to increase their holdings this year. If the problem on the budget deficit is not addressed, however, this will overshadow all the present good news for gilts and foreign demand could dwindle.

GERARD LYONS

DRB International

## Domestic orders halt the slide

BY MARTIN WALLER AND NEIL BENNETT

THE London Chamber of Commerce and Industry has reported the first rise in domestic orders in two years and the first positive sign that the recession has begun to lift in the manufacturing sector.

But its latest economic trends survey covering more than 250 companies and conducted before the general election, counterbalances this optimism with an unexpected setback for service sector businesses and output falling again, albeit at a slower rate, for the eighth consecutive quarter. The Chamber says the rate at which businesses lay off work-

ers is set to decline in the second quarter.

According to a report by Verdict, the market research group, consumers have become more sophisticated in their use of credit. Non-mortgage credit, however, continues to rise, although growth has fallen sharply. In the first quarter of 1991 loans rose £1.66 billion. In the last three months of 1991 growth was £67 million.

Verdict's report on how Britain pays (£695), from Verdict Research 112 High Holborn, London, WC1.

## Edinburgh urges Lang to back Eurofed claim

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

IAN Lang, Secretary of State for Scotland, is being urged to support a campaign to bring the proposed European Central Bank, or Eurofed, to Edinburgh.

The Scottish capital, London and Manchester are likely to put in bids, but they face competition from a range of European financial centres including Paris, Lyons, Frankfurt, Luxembourg and Amsterdam.

The "Eurofed for Scotland" campaign is being led by a steering group made up of local government and business representatives.

James Scott, the executive director of Scottish Financial Enterprise, a body representing Scotland's financial sector, has written to Mr Lang asking him to advance Edinburgh's case "with vigour" within the government.

The decision on the Eurofed is unlikely to be made until next year, but the UK contenders are thought to stand little chance.

he said. "The market looks a little tired, but the recycling of money from maturing bank certificates of deposit will give us some stabilisation," he said.

■Tokyo — The Nikkei index clung to the 17,000 level on some last-minute buying, but by the close had lost 509.33 points at 17,071.36.

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## Downturn in US knocks profits at Albert Fisher



Advance expected: Robert Bauman, SmithKline Beecham's chief executive

advance in annual pre-tax profits to between £14.5 million and £15 million, against £13.5 million last time.

**Greencare Group**, the nursing homes owner that is quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, will report an advance in final pre-tax profits to £950,000, against £840,000 last time, according to Panmure Gordon, the house broker.

**Interims**: Consolidated Murcison, Elsburg Gold Mining, Joel (H J) Gold Mining, Keystone Investment Company, Randfontein Estates, Gold Mining Co, Venterfontein Ltd, and Elsburg Gold Mining. **Finals**: EIS Group, Greencare Group, Roper, Venturi Investment Trust.

### TOMORROW

The recovery is expected to continue at Ross Group, the consumer electronics and specialist packaging group. Albert E Sharp believes that final pre-tax profits will climb to £1.65 million, against £989,000 last time.

## Euphoria not yet exhausted

**I**nvestors and fund managers return from the Easter break this morning wondering whether John Major's surprise election victory has kicked off a new spring and summer for shares or whether the stock market has simply staged an initial adjustment, leaving those who missed the boat to grin and bear it.

Since election day dawned, share prices have risen an average 10 per cent. Much of that bounce was emotional, a mixture of greater confidence in economic recovery, the removal of uncertainty that led buyers to hold back their cash — and no tax increase for affluent savers. There have been other one-off factors, such as the unwinding of precautionary sales of share futures and assumed relief to sensitive sectors such as water, where some prices jumped 30 per cent.

More pointedly, the fear of a temporary rise in short-term interest rates, should the Conservatives have lost power, was replaced by hopes of a small cut as the pound gained an average 1.7 per cent on the foreign exchanges. Wall Street, where prices rose 6 per cent to all-time records before some profit-taking, also influenced London, but the impact should not be exaggerated.

Profit-taking can be expected in some of the politically sensitive index stocks but the short-term recovery in London has surely not yet fully spent its course. In particular, it will widen into smaller company shares. Even before Easter, there were isolated signs that economic confidence could quickly help spending. For example, HPI, the vehicle information group, detected a small but instant rise in interest in second-hand cars. On momentum alone, there is therefore every reason for the FT-SE index to retrace fairly soon the 2,680 peak of last September, before disappointment at the non-appearance of recovery set off the slide, later compounded by electoral fears.

**O**ne important negative factor has intruded since then. The length and depth of the recession has pushed the government's borrowing requirement to an expected £28 billion in 1992-3 and more in 1993-4, some £8 billion a year more than expected a few months ago.

In 1991, according to figures released on Thursday, institutional investors drew in £42 billion, spent £22 billion on UK company securities, overwhelmingly shares, but only £2.5 billion on gilt-edged. At the same time, they ran net liquidity down by £5 billion, virtually to rock bottom, before rebuilding it temporarily before the election. If they spent anything like as much on shares this year as last while being called on for perhaps £15 billion-£20 billion to fund the government, there would need to be a spectacular retreat from overseas investment or an unlikely bank-financed takeover boom.

Shortage of institutional funds need not curb share price rises. There is, however, little else to chase them far. The economic upturn is still likely to be leisurely, leaving profits recovering modestly, except in the hard-hit financial sector, with no boost from inflation or a sliding pound. Shares will probably sell at an average 14.2 times earnings to be announced next spring, with no dramatic eighties-style surge to come.

Dividends are thinly covered and should lag behind profits in the recovery. Yet the average dividend yield of 4.75 per cent offers little premium over index-linked gilt-edged and any benefit from lower short-term interest rates will be small. Private investors should not be put off buying long-term at current prices. Confidence, though vulnerable to shocks, could propel the FT-SE index through 2,700. At the 3,000 forecast by some brokers for later this year, it would definitely be a sell.

**C**olin Narbrough  
suggests the former  
Soviet republics should  
remember an earlier  
Keynesian attempt to  
stabilise the rouble

**I**n Moscow, the Congress of People's Deputies has devoted an inordinate amount of time to discussing whether the Russian Federation should restore the country's historic, pre-Bolshevik name — Russia. Given the gargantuan task the former Soviet Union faces on the political and economic fronts, dwelling so long on a name seems a terrible waste of time.

Yet to focus on Russia's past can be a fruitful exercise, a glance backwards that provides valuable pointers to the future.

As Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, goads his reluctant compatriotes towards the free market, it becomes ever more obvious that the rouble, still the official currency of all former Soviet republics, is failing to provide the reliable store of value and convertibility a market economy requires. Without faith in the rouble, other currencies will gain firmer hold. Citizens of the former Soviet Union are already believed to hold \$10 billion in foreign currency. The Group of Seven agreed this month to give Russia \$6 billion for a rouble stabilisation fund. The black holes in the rouble zone economies suggest, however, that setting a target level for the currency will be a leap in the dark.

Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, last week drew attention to the substantial additional needs of the other republics, whose quest for sound money will, in some cases, take them out of the rouble fold, causing a whole range of separate difficulties. Given their close and ill-balanced economic ties with Russia, and their lack of international competitiveness, the purely economic case for separate currencies is not strong. Ukraine and the three Baltic states nevertheless intend to issue their own currencies this year.

Russia's fast-track economic reformers ignore the fact that our own transition has been a long march rather than a quick dash. Britain took 35 years after the second world war to achieve full currency convertibility for current account and capital transactions. Ironically, some prominent western thinkers have tried to direct attention to ideas that have been tried and tested in Russia. Among those driving into the past are Jacques Attali, president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Paul Volcker, former chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Sir Alan Walters, Margaret Thatcher's former economics guru, and Michael Foot, head of the Bank of England's European division.

Attali's reading is that gold,



Father of the 'British rouble': Lord Keynes's theories support the argument for currency boards

alongside oil and gas, is one of the real currencies left in Russia faced with spiralling inflation and the threat of systemic collapse. Official Russian reserves may be down to 240 tonnes, but there is production potential. M Attali sees scope to use gold and hydrocarbons as a standard of value in addition to their direct role in economic development. The creation of a "gold board", issuing currency backed by the noble metal, is one idea he has floated. He recalls that Lenin's "new economic policy" in the early twenties was accompanied by the issue of a parallel currency, the *chervonetz*, equal to 7.74 grammes of gold. Though not redeemable at a fixed rate for gold, the currency was nominally backed by the government's gold reserves. Monetary reform, and encouragement of free market activity, gave the Soviet Union its fastest period of growth. Since the *chervonetz* was abandoned for foreign transactions in 1928, the Soviet currency has been inconvertible at home and abroad.

Mr Volcker, one of the few central bankers who have been in charge of the monetary policy of a country anywhere near the size of the former Soviet Union, is firmly opposed to the central bank being used as a means of achieving convertibility. Markets, he points out, developed well before central banks. If the crumbling Soviet empire were to rely on central banks, they might prove a barrier to change. Mr Volcker fears.

**E**ver ready to challenge orthodoxy, Sir Alan Walters has championed the idea that former Soviet republics should end their fixation with national central banks. Although fundamentally opposed to Britain relinquishing monetary sovereignty, he believes that currency boards, which are simply bodies issuing a currency backed against another hard currency, would serve the troubled economy better than central banks. In support of his case, Sir Alan, a monetarist, has reached back to 1918 and to Lord Keynes, father of the "British rouble".

This convertible currency was introduced by the British forces occupying northern Russia only 11 weeks after the concept was born at the Treasury in London. Civil war and a worthless local currency prompted the British to introduce a currency board, which issued surcharged rouble notes 75 per cent backed by sterling. Hailed as an

immediate success by the military authorities, it rekindled commercial activity and enabled the army to buy and sell normally. Good money soon drove out the bad. However, the experiment was to be short-lived. The system was abandoned when the British withdrew in 1919.

The currency board was far from abandoned. Indeed, it continued to thrive across the British empire. While many former colonies insisted on establishing their own central banks upon independence, Hong Kong, one of the world's most vibrant economies, still employs the board system, operated there by private banks. Under such systems, there is no need for a central bank. The "board" simply issues notes and coins convertible into a foreign reserve currency at a fixed rate. The board's reserves are high-quality external assets, typically interest-bearing securities denominated in a reserve currency. The British rouble scheme used Russian timber resources for part of its backing, the British army being on the spot to secure the timber.

Key to the board system is that it issues domestic currency only to the extent that it is covered by reserves. Most important for countries dogged by economic uncertainty, the

board has no discretion over monetary policy. It cannot devalue or revalue the currency. Market forces determine the money supply. The board system generates income from its interest-bearing reserves. Its only outgoing is maintaining the circulation of banknotes and coins. As the British found in northern Russia, instant convertible currency can cause social tension because people will pursue the good currency in preference to the old money.

**D**oubts remain about how appropriate a currency board system would be to the needs and aspirations of the former Soviet Union. In a paper for the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Mr Foot identifies two difficulties in the board approach. The first is where the reserve assets will be found. Russia is resource-rich, but the other republics are unlikely to have access to sufficient reserves without extensive foreign help.

The second is that the domestic money supply may need to grow quickly in the early phases of reform, especially when prices are liberalised. A currency board, Mr Foot argues, is designed to prevent such rapid growth. Only by trying to establish from the outset the path of money supply for several years ahead would a board be able to overcome this problem, he believes. That would be difficult, and it would highlight the true scale of the funds needed to back a board system. Other critics of the concept fear it could not work as long as the supply of the old national currency exceeded the growth of potential output.

The phenomenal economic growth of Hong Kong seems to counter the argument that currency board systems prevent an economy expanding. The 60 countries that have operated currency boards were rewarded with success. Capital and current account transactions presented few problems, inflation was kept as low as in the leading economies with which their currencies were linked, and foreign institutions readily established themselves in the environment of monetary safety that was created. The availability of reserve assets should not prove an insurmountable obstacle, either. Gold-swaps, where currency is advanced against gold reserves, and loans tied to known gold resources, should help solve Russia's problem. The Baltic states have had most of their prewar gold reserves returned from the West. Loans linked to other commodities, plus western aid, could fill the gap in reserve assets.

To foster credibility of the currency boards in the initial phase, it would be sensible to base them outside the former Soviet Union, beyond the reach of interfering politicians. Basle, Swiss home of the Bank for International Settlements, would be a good location. Even more persuasive would be London, because our imperial past has made the Bank of England the international repository of expertise on currency boards.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY



### KB enclave on the Thames

SOMETHING of a Kleinwort Benson enclave is being established in the Thame-side offices of Swiss Bank Corporation. Last week, KB's second most senior (and profitable) market-maker, Chris Salter, resigned to join the Swiss group, where he will find himself working alongside Iain Rugeheimer. Rugeheimer, previously a general salesman and, at times, a specialist in the healthcare sector with KB, started work at SBC six weeks ago. At SBC he has moved on to the primary and syndicated loans desk. Their number will be boosted by the arrival of market-makers Tim Medland and Keith Humphries, from Goldman Sachs. They too once worked for KB. Meanwhile SBC, which is known to be keen to expand its activity in the options market, since it is in the process of buying and integrating O'Connor, the leading American options house, is also to expand its market making capacity in FT-SE 100 stocks, so that prices in all 100 stocks are on offer.

### Chemin de feuilles

BRITISH Rail's determination to beat off the threat of airline competition on its new Channel tunnel express has been raising eyebrows within the British Airline Pilots Association. BR is offering its drivers salaries of £24,000, the sort of sum many pilots get only after 11 years' service. BR explains that it is prepared to invest in the best-quality drivers. Peter Whittaker, personnel director, adds that the remuneration pack-



### CITY DIARY

#### Decisive action needed or Lloyd's will find its problems insoluble

From R. C. Dutton-Forshaw

Sir, It is ironic that on Good Friday, of all days, the shattering news should be announced that many thousands of Lloyd's names will be facing personal ruin.

They must feel doubly betrayed. Betrayed by Lloyd's, in which they put their trust, and a duty of care which sadly appears to be completely lacking. Betrayed by their members' agents, who also must carry a responsibility for placing them on syndicates which were manifestly unsound.

Lloyd's may have felt relieved by the news that it is now able to draw down its unfortunate names' cash in order to meet totally unprecedented calls. By so doing, not only will it have destroyed many of its names, but at the

#### Time to settle commercial debts

From Mr Stephen Schick

Sir, As an external member of Lloyd's, I hope that after the recent judgment in the High Court (Names fail to stop assets seizure, April 17) my fellow names will now accept the reality that they are legally obliged to settle their commercial debts.

Too many names are being

misled into thinking these can be avoided and are merely spending more of their limited resources on membership fees of "action groups", solicitors' fees and legal expenses.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN SCHICK,  
Garden Flat,  
34 Tit Street, SW3.

VAT. Even if the landlord has not elected to charge VAT, stamp duty has to be paid on the notional VAT that he could have charged! They say that this is justified by a decision of the European Court! Yours faithfully,  
M. NADEEM,  
33 New Cavendish Street, W1.

Stamp duty charged on notional VAT

From Mr Maurice Nadeem  
Sir, There is an even better example than that quoted by Mr Good (Business Letters, April 15) of tax on a tax. Now that VAT can be charged on commercial rents, the Revenue demand stamp duty calculated not on the rent, but on the total of the rent and the

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Relationship to child: Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Grandparent \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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CAROL LEONARD



## QUEEN'S AWARDS

## Broadening the excellence field

A new environment award will join the Queen's Awards for industrial achievement in technology and export, Derek Harris reports.

The 26-year-old Queen's Awards for export and technological achievement are about to go through their biggest change since 1976, the year the awards were split in two.

The total number of Queen's Awards given for 1992 was 165, above the general level of the last decade and ahead of last year's 158. Applications for the 1992 awards were the highest for 13 years. There was a record number of 127 awards for export achievement as British business, from manufacturers big and small to universities and other services, strove to beat the recession by maximising sales abroad. Thirty-eight companies secured an award for technological achievement. There were 1,565 applicants for this year's awards, a 37 per cent increase on 1991.

A further award is now to be introduced: the Queen's Award for environmental achievement. A clutch of companies favoured this year by the Queen's Awards office have environmental aspects to their work and at least four would have received such an award, had one been on offer. This has encouraged the office to believe that the new environmental award should readily attract attention.

The new environmental trophy was first signalled in January by the prime minister. It builds on the pioneering work of the Royal Society of Arts with its Better Environment awards for industry.

ICI's Katalo Purification Processes subsidiary has also

The aim of the new Queen's Award is to recognise and encourage product and process development which will bring important environmental benefits. Companies will have to show that the initiatives are commercially successful. The first winners will be announced in April next year, along with those securing export and technology awards.

It is not uncommon for a few companies to secure both an export and technology award in the same year. Last year, three companies scored a double, but in the 1992 awards nobody managed this. The prospect of a company landing a treble is remote, although it is theoretically possible. However, a successful product or process with environmental impact could quite likely lead to an export award. It is already a familiar pattern for those picking up technology awards, as this year's list demonstrates.

The most prolific winners of awards over the years have been ICI and GEC, through the achievements of their many subsidiaries. GPT Payphone Systems, jointly owned by Britain's General Electric Company (GEC) and Germany's Siemens, secured a technology award last year, and a trophy this year for exporting to more than 60 telephone operators in nearly 50 countries. It manufactures intelligent payphones, phonecards, management systems and cashless calling systems.

ICI's Katalo Purification Processes subsidiary has also

picked up an export award, after winning on technological merits last year. This is one of three ICI awards, the others being for technological achievement in the pharmaceutical and agrochemical fields.

GEC's Marconi Electronics this year has scooped a technology award as part of its burgeoning diversification from mainstream defence-related programmes.

The verdict of the Queen's Awards office on the 1992 trophies was that quality was very high, especially among the export awards. What helped boost the applications was a mailshot which brought a 3 per cent response - high for this type of promotion. The technique may be used again.

Strong export sectors included high technology, electrics, transport and textiles. Among the clothing manufacturer export winners is

J. Barbour and Sons, established in the north east in 1894 and producers of the legendary oiled-cotton 'Barbour' country clothing.

There was a strong automotive showing, including the Rover group (a technology award for its K-series engine); Nissan's UK subsidiary (it exports to 29 countries, including Japan); Peugeot Talbot (the UK arm of France's Peugeot and a strong exporter); and the Cosworth high-performance engine division of Vickers (the engines of which have figured in motor racing, as well as equipping top-of-the-range road cars for several manufacturers).

Aerospace awards involved companies such as British Aerospace (for commercial aircraft exports) and Rolls-Royce, with its battle to maintain a key market share of tough aircraft engine markets.

Another was International Aerospace, a Bedfordshire-based company which trains pilots and flight engineers in advanced techniques so that they can become test pilots or flight-test engineers.

Agriculture had a bigger showing than usual, with four awards involving sector companies.

Smaller businesses account for a big swathe of the awards, with 68 per cent of export trophies going to companies with fewer than 200 employees. Smaller companies also account for 55 per cent of those securing technology awards. Overall, 65 per cent of awards were taken up by smaller businesses, down a little on last year's 70 per cent.

Invisible earnings by service providers accounted for 18 per cent of the export winners, a bigger proportion than last year.

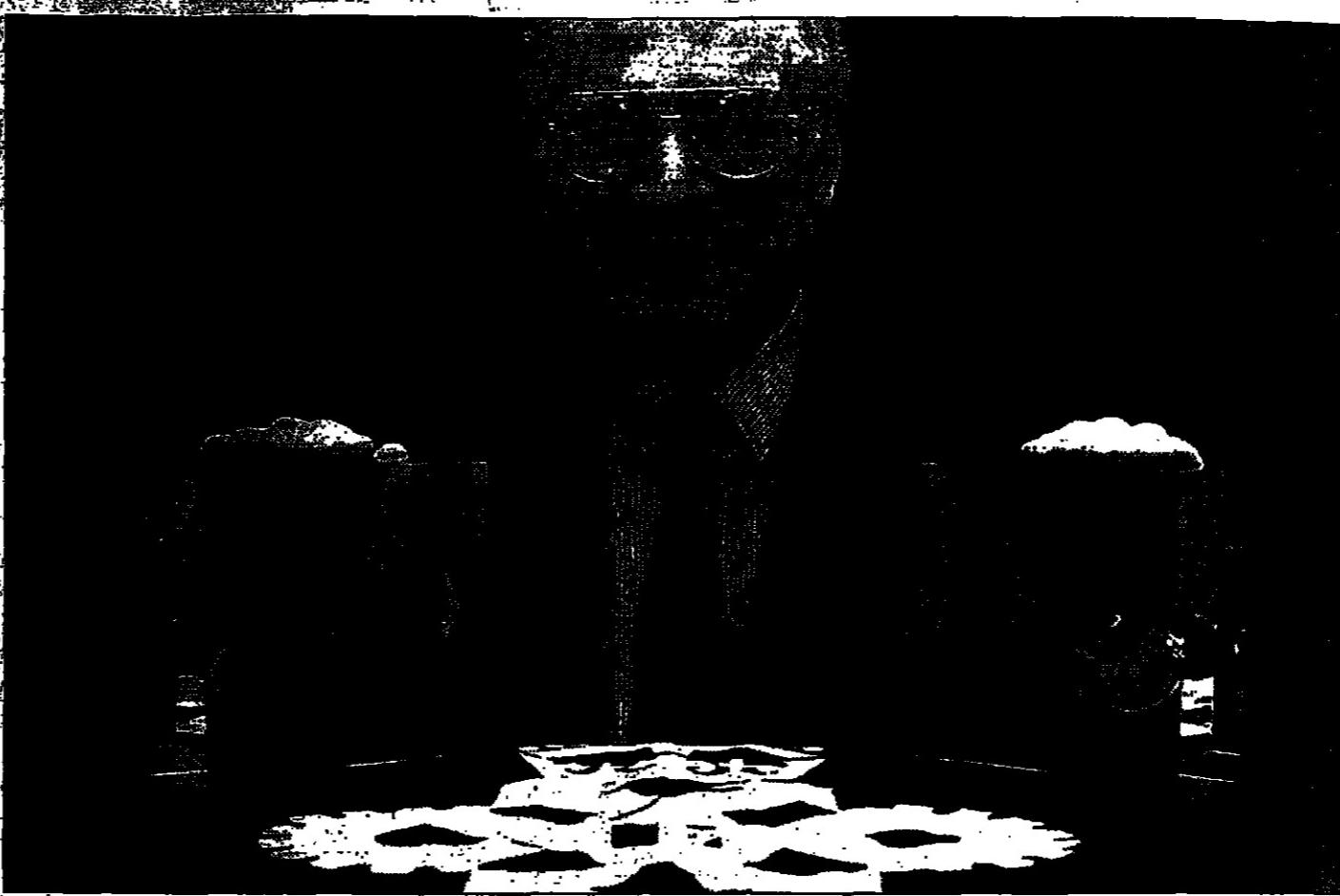
## Head of a growing class

John Smith is in charge of the awards' expansion

**JOHN SMITH**, a career civil servant with 16 years of service at the trade and industry department, took over a year ago as secretary of the Queen's Award Office, writes Derek Harris.

Mr Smith, 50, was formerly at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, with stints abroad. At the trade and industry department, he has been concerned mostly with commercial relations and export promotion, notably in west and north Africa and in Europe, especially in the EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries.

As the secretary, Mr Smith presides over a new expansion of the awards. A third one will be added later this year for companies demonstrably improving environmental quality through manufacture or processes which have shown themselves to be commercially successful.



Arbiter of export and technological excellence in industry: John Smith, secretary of the Queen's Awards office, displays the trophies

Year	UK Exports (£ billion)			
	1988	1989	1990	1991
Worldwide	82	94	104	105
Western Europe	7	8	9	9
European Community	41	47	55	59
USA	10	12	12	11

Source: CSO

## Material advantage

**R**employ, the employer of disabled workers, has trebled its knitwear overseas earnings in four years as it has widened its markets for military clothing and diversified into fashion, writes Derek Harris.

French gendarmes sport the sweaters (shown right) and American marines the ceremonial scarves produced by Remploy's knitwear division headquartered in Alfreton, Derbyshire. The Japanese can buy the goods on mail order. A second collection of fashion knitwear, for which Remploy has teamed up with couturier Hardy Amies, will be launched this autumn.



# DOUBLE TOP FOR CONOCO



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**JET**

# East and West in harmony

Rodney Hobson  
reports on an  
Anglo-Japanese  
joint venture

**S**ubsidiaries set up in the United Kingdom by foreign companies, particularly by the Japanese and Americans, are now winning awards for exports.

Kemble & Company is a joint venture between the Yamaha Corporation of Japan, the world's largest musical instrument manufacturers, and the Kemble family, who have been manufacturing high-quality acoustic pianos since 1911. The combined export sales of the Kemble and Yamaha brands has more than doubled over the past three years to nearly £5 million in 1991.

Kemble started manufacturing the first Yamaha model in 1987. After the success of the pilot project, Yamaha, seeking a European manufacturing partner ahead of the single market, chose Kemble in 1988 to be its European manufacturing base for upright pianos. At the same time Yamaha invested in Kemble to increase capacity and to introduce the latest machinery and computer-based production control.

The partnership, based in Milton Keynes, flourished as a result of high-quality British craftsmanship and Yamaha knowhow in production tech-



Making music: Kemble & Co's joint managing directors, Brian Kemble and Shinya Nakamichi, are mixing British craft and Yamaha know-how

nology, along with strong support from Yamaha's European distribution companies.

Yamazaki Machinery UK makes computerised machine tools as a subsidiary of Yamazaki Mazak of Japan. It was established as a sales unit in 1981 and opened a factory at Worcester in 1987.

Kyushu Matsushita Electric (UK) has made great strides

since starting business in 1986 in Newport, Gwent. It makes printers, typewriters and telephones, exporting mainly to the European Community and the United States.

Helena Laboratories was established in 1984 as a sales company for the products of its American parent. In 1986, from a trading estate in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, it

began to produce a range of diagnostic kits for testing blood for a variety of conditions, together with the laboratory instruments for conducting the tests. The British company has built up an export trade in British products to Europe, Africa, India, the Middle East and the Pacific region. Overseas sales account for half the output.

Another company with an American parent is Hewitt-Robins International, a subsidiary of Process Technology based in North Carolina. The British end, in Glasgow, makes equipment for quarries, mines, steelworks and foundries. International Rectifier, another subsidiary of a United States company, has been trading since 1958 and makes power conductors for the electricity industry. New markets are being developed in eastern Europe.

Little Rock, Arkansas, is the home of Orbit Valve, whose British subsidiary is at Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. Since 1973 it has been designing and making valves for the oil and gas industries.

## Car makers on the right track

Foreign-owned manufacturers are honoured for export achievement

**T**hree car manufacturers and several companies providing parts and back-up services receive awards (writes Rodney Hobson). The best-known names are Nissan of Japan and Peugeot of France, both foreign-owned and honoured for export achievements, and Rover, which gains the technology award.

The British subsidiary of Peugeot, based in Coventry, has been trading since 1980 and exports cars and parts to France. Other markets include Belgium, Spain, Australasia, the Far East, Africa and Pakistan, while new markets are being developed in Japan, Italy, the Netherlands, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Nissan has been trading in the United Kingdom since 1986, having set up shop in Sunderland. It exports cars to 29 countries, mainly in Europe, and sends cars to the Far East, with Taiwan a main market and even Japan starting to take British-made models.

The company is seeking opportunities in the former Soviet Union, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Rover Power Train, Rover's subsidiary, gains the technology award for the development of the K-series engine. With its advanced lean-burn combustion, the K-series is capable of meeting all emission limits likely to be imposed in the foreseeable future. It also gives high performance and fuel economy.

.

The engine castings are of aluminium alloy. The design and construction methods allow high crankshaft speeds while reducing vibration and extending the life of the bearings. Its developers tested 875 prototypes for a total of 73,000 hours, over two million miles.

Among companies supplying parts is G. Clancy, set up in Halesowen by its parent company Clancy Holdings in 1941. It makes machined components and castings for motor vehicles. Its leading export markets are Europe and the United States, with other outlets in Africa, the Middle East and the Far East.

A new market is being established in South America.

Production is centred on a specially designed and built factory and office block on a five-acre site alongside the A38 trunk road at Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire.

Tires are produced for passenger cars and light commercial vehicles only, but the wide range includes tires for high-performance sports and saloon cars for speeds up to 150mph. The tires have to be produced to the same tough specifications as for new tires.



Speed merchants: Cosworth exports racing-car engines

## Services without frontiers

**F**or the first time, a patent and trademark agent has won an export award, while in another first an Isle of Man business has won a similar trophy (writes Derek Harris).

RGC Jenkins & Co, whose headquarters are at Caxton Street, London, is a patent and trademark specialist. Two thirds of its income comes from overseas clients. Its best markets are Japan, the United States, Canada, Europe, Australasia and South Korea. Earnings abroad have more than doubled in three years.

The Isle of Man's trophy-getter is a financial services company, Clinical Medical International Insurance. It was established on the island in 1987, as the international arm of the 168-year-old Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society, which is based in Bristol and has branches world-wide.

The Isle of Man operation increased net overseas earn-



Winning solicitors: Nick Fisher (front) and Justin More

ings by more than five times in its first three years.

The only advertising company to pick up an award for exports is Aegis Group, the holding company for the world's largest group of media specialists. One contract is for Walt Disney's media planning and space and time-buying in every European market. Aegis is quoted on the stock exchanges of London, New York and Paris.

Export earnings, which have more than doubled over three years and now account for 95 per cent of Aegis's income, arise through Carat,

its main operating division. Carat employs 1,700 people in more than 50 offices spread across 18 countries.

Among other services sector companies netting export awards is More Fisher Brown, the second firm of solicitors ever to do so. The company, with offices in the City of London, is a small partnership set up in 1988 specialising in servicing the international marine and insurance industry, including arbitration work. Earnings spring from 58 countries and have trebled over three years, now accounting for 80 per cent of turnover.

## Winners clean up

**A** surge in the 1992 awards of trophy winners with products which have a strong environmental impact includes a number of firms in the energy business (writes Derek Harris). Among them is Vikoma International, based on the Isle of Wight, which won an award for export achievement.

Since its birth 20 years ago, when the problems of oil pollution at sea were first emerging, Vikoma has propelled itself to world prominence in making equipment to deal with oil pollution. Overseas sales account for 80 per cent of Vikoma's production.

It makes booms and skimming devices which have been used in many big disasters,

including the Exxon Valdez

incident in Alaska in 1989

and the damage to Kuwait's

oilfields in the Gulf war.

It has two manufacturing sites, at Cowes and at Wallasey on Merseyside. It employs about 150 and has grown steadily by 20 per cent a year in recent years.

There are at least seven award-winners with products



Going green: new award

having a direct environmental impact and others with an environmental aspect — for example, Rover's technology award-winning engine range with low emissions. The increasing prominence of environmentally-related products augurs well for the launch of the environmental Queen's Awards, to be unveiled next year.

A joint technology award has gone to the British Gas research and technology division in Birmingham and Hotwork Development of Dewsbury, West Yorkshire.

Hotwork, founded in 1962, was bought out by its management in 1988. The pair won a trophy for developing a regenerative burner system which can be used on all sizes of fuel-fired furnaces. It is especially useful for systems burning natural gas and oil as fuel. Its makers say it is cheap and easy to clean and can produce savings of up to 65 per cent paying for itself within a year. Original research at British Gas was followed by manufacturing at Hotwork. In three years sales rose to £4.5 million, a third of them abroad.

Another technology trophy in the energy sector went to Babcock Energy, of Renfrew, Strathclyde, for a burner system that reduces nitrous oxide emissions at coal-fired power stations.

The burner reduces pollutant emissions by up to 55 per cent. The company's initiative has already won an environmental award from the Engineering Council.

An export award has gone to Warwick International of Moslyn, Cheshire, which makes additives to improve the efficiency of low-temperature detergent powders and to boost the performance of detergents that are environmentally friendly because they do not use phosphates. Since it last won an export award in 1988, Warwick has more than doubled its exports, which go to more than 40 countries.

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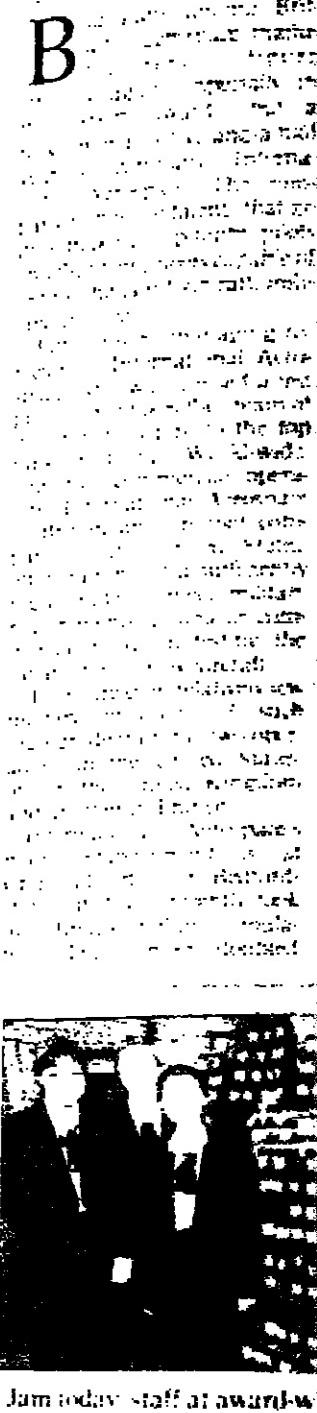
THORN Security & Electronics extends warmest congratulations to its colleagues at Swindon on securing a Queen's Award for Export. We're not at all surprised at this achievement by THORN Secure Science. After all the company's unique magnetic stripe technology has already secured everything else from currency cards to access passes. In markets such as leisure, finance, communications, vending, retailing and transport, the company's remarkable WATERMARK MAGNETICS® technology is now in use in over forty countries.

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THE TIMES TUE

**Ma**

Derek Harris  
spots high flyers  
in the aerospace  
industry



In-Bu

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Bui

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# Master classes polish flying skills

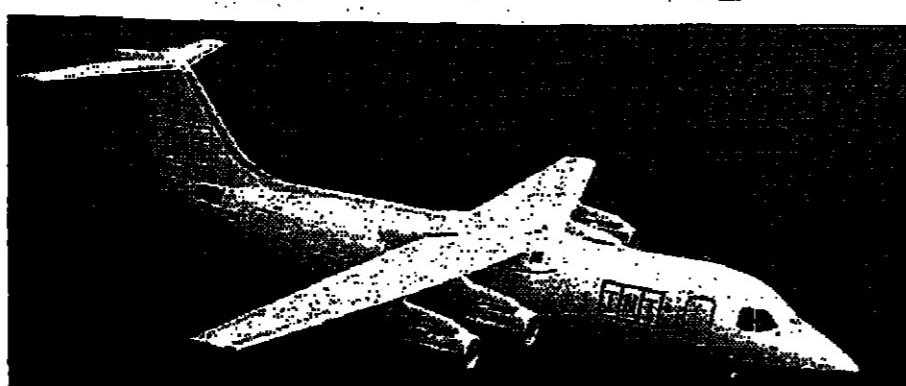
**Derek Harris**  
spots high flyers  
in the aerospace  
industry

**B**ig guns among Britain's aerospace manufacturers figure strongly again, especially in the export awards, but a newcomer is a five-and-a-half year-old company, International Aerospace. The company hones the talents that go into making top-flight pilots and flight engineers capable of testing the latest aircraft, military and civil.

James Giles, managing director of International Aerospace, who was himself a test pilot, says it takes the cream of the crop to aspire to the top rank in flying. Worldwide, only two commercial operators, International Aerospace in Britain and another company in the United States, offer training of a sufficiently high grade to meet military requirements as well as commercial needs in testing the capabilities of new aircraft.

There are even relatively few military providers of such high-grade training: two operations in the United States, one in the United Kingdom and another in France.

International Aerospace's main establishment is at Cranfield airfield in Bedfordshire but it also recently took over Inmarsat's in-flight simulation centre in Stevenage. This almost doubled



In demand: British Aerospace has sold nearly 300 of its 146 short-haul jet airliners

turnover to about £5 million a year, of which 85 per cent is work from overseas. International Aerospace's earnings from the Far East, Europe and Scandinavia trebled in the past three years.

At Cranfield, about eight new personnel are trained annually, roughly half of them pilots and the others flight engineers. Mr Giles says that it puts "a veneer of additional skill on top people". The courses include advanced aircraft handling techniques, avionics and simulation skills.

The civil engine business of Rolls-Royce, which recently clinched a £300 million contract to provide engines for Cathay Pacific's new Boeing 777 fleet, has scooped an exports award as if flights for its share of one of the toughest international markets.

Rolls-Royce is ranged against the two key American manufacturers, Pratt & Whitney and General Electric (GE). There had been fears that Rolls-Royce might come a poor third in the race to power Boeing's new aircraft, a medium-range jet which is the only

which will be the most powerful engine yet built by the company. It has a maximum thrust of 80,000 lbs.

The Rolls-Royce order book for Trent now stands at 254 for all versions. If all options are included, it means there are £2 billion-worth of orders

in the pipeline. A slightly smaller version, the Trent 700, has been developed to power the Airbus A330, Boeing 777's European rival. The Rolls-Royce engine accounts for 41 per

cent of A330 engine orders so far.

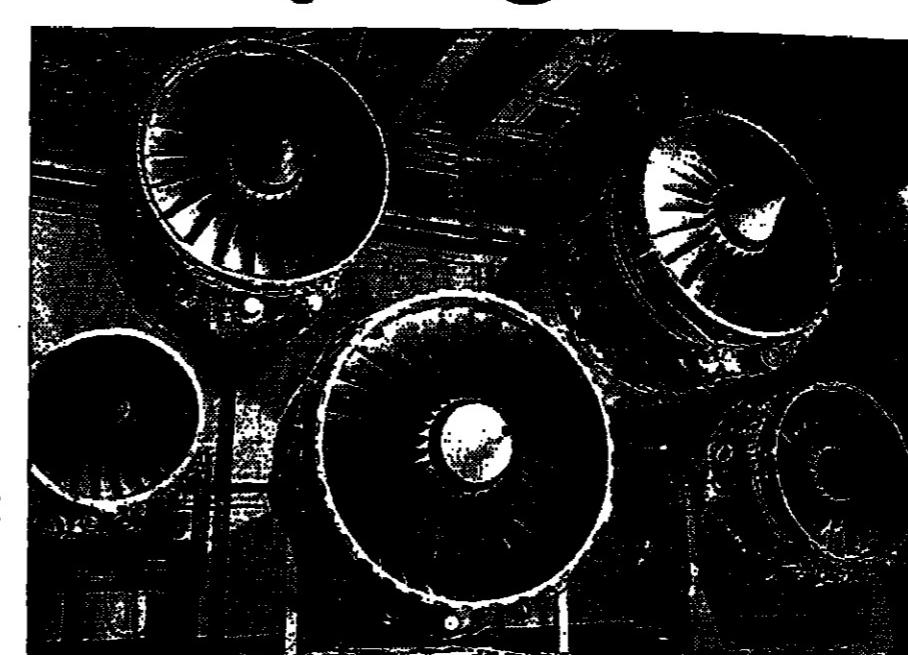
British Aerospace's commercial aircraft interests, recently split between three new divisions, have earned an export award for success with various commercial aircraft and business jets. They have also supplied the wings for aircraft produced by the Air-

## Only the cream of the crop can aspire to flying's top rank — testing new aircraft

fresh design it will manufacture this decade, after British Airways decided to buy Pratt & Whitney engines.

The Cathay order gives Rolls-Royce a 28 per cent share of the 777 engines market, behind Pratt & Whitney but ahead of GE.

Rolls-Royce matched the key order with its Trent 800,



High and mighty: the Trent is in the centre of this display of Rolls-Royce engines

bus consortium, in which BAe has a 20 per cent stake. In 1988 BAe won a technology award for the wing design for the Airbus A320.

Last year there were 27 BAe 146 jet airliners ordered, worth about £385 million. BAe has sold close to 300 of these four-engined aircraft, which are short-haul airliners noted for quietness of operation. Its Jetstream airliners have also proved popular.

Dowty Aerospace, Gloucester, a subsidiary of the Dowty group, has won its second export award (the first was in 1980) for sales of aircraft produced in 1980

products such as landing gear, propellers and flaps. About 55 per cent of its sales are abroad. Last year it won a technology award for propeller design.

Another aerospace specialist with an export award is Dorset-based Penny & Giles Data Recorders, part of Penny & Giles International. It makes aircraft flight data recorders for military and civil use, including the armour-plated "black box" recorders intended to survive a crash and help unravel unresolved mysteries.

The company has seen steady annual sales growth of up to 15 per cent over the past

Cards do nicely overseas

**T**wo companies involved in the production of plastic cards have won export awards (writes Rodney Hobson).

GPT Payphone Systems makes phonecards and payphones. Based in Liverpool, it is owned jointly by GEC and Siemens.

The equipment is easily adaptable for foreign currencies and is designed for all climates, thus allowing communications to be brought to remote locations.

GPT has exported to 60 telephone administrations in 48 countries. It won the technology award last year.

For Gracefern, which trades as Oakwood Design, this is the second export award. The company designs and manufactures machinery for the production of bank cards, credit cards and telephone cards.

The Letchworth-based company recently pioneered the development of photo ID card systems for banks and in the security field to curb fraud. Two of its card systems incorporate video images of photographs. The company is at the forefront of the "smart card" business in which microchips are embedded in the cards.

The most important markets are North America and Europe but sales are now penetrating the Far East, particularly Singapore, Japan and South Korea, and eastern Europe. Earlier intensive marketing efforts in the former Eastern bloc are beginning to pay off, with new markets firmly established in Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Oakwood Design was formed in 1977 and is still a private company. It has financed its rapid growth entirely by its own efforts, without any government loans or outside assistance.

Sales have shown strong growth in the years since the first award was won in 1987. In that year, exports were just 58 per cent of the £1.6 million turnover. This has grown to 86 per cent of last year's £5.4 million sales.

## Fortnum wins with tea and biscuits

**F**ortnum & Mason, the London store established on Piccadilly in 1707, is the oldest company to figure in the Queen's Awards list, earning an export trophy for mounting sales of high-quality British foodstuffs abroad. (writes Derek Harris)

It is one of a cluster of food and drink companies which have earned export awards. Fortnum & Mason now has

shops within shops in about a dozen leading department stores in Japan. It also has a restaurant in Mitsubishi's main Tokyo store.

Fortnum & Mason has a long history of selling overseas (often to expatriates) and last year exports rose 47 per cent.

Substantial trade in fish to mainland European markets has been built up by Richard

Culbeck out of the Grimsby fish docks on south Humberside. The 17-year-old company has promoted the sale abroad of fish species not traditionally eaten in Britain, such as monkfish, dogfish and ling.

Scotprine Seafoods of Ayr, Scotland, has also increased fish exports this way. The fast-growing company, established



Jam today: staff at award-winning Fortnum & Mason

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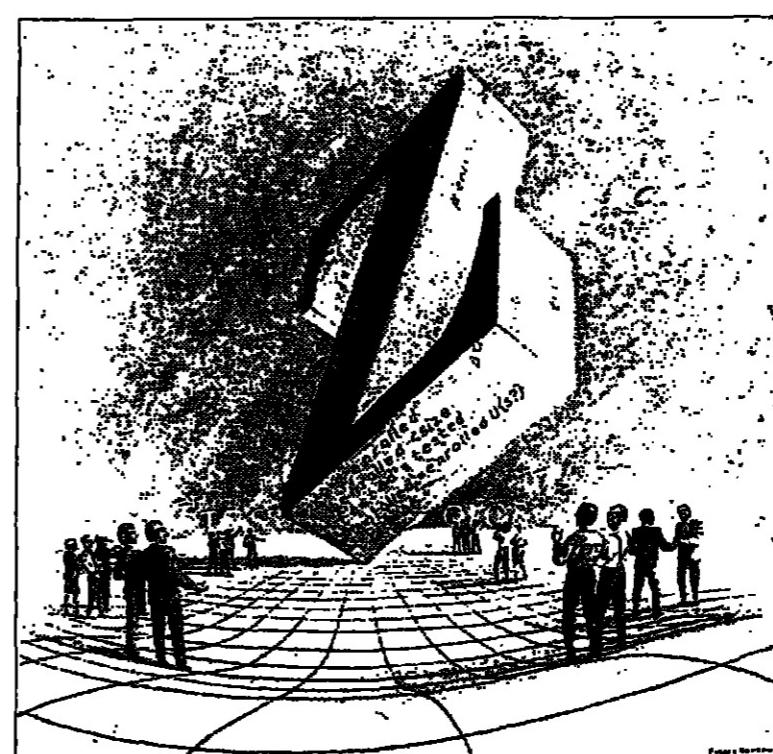
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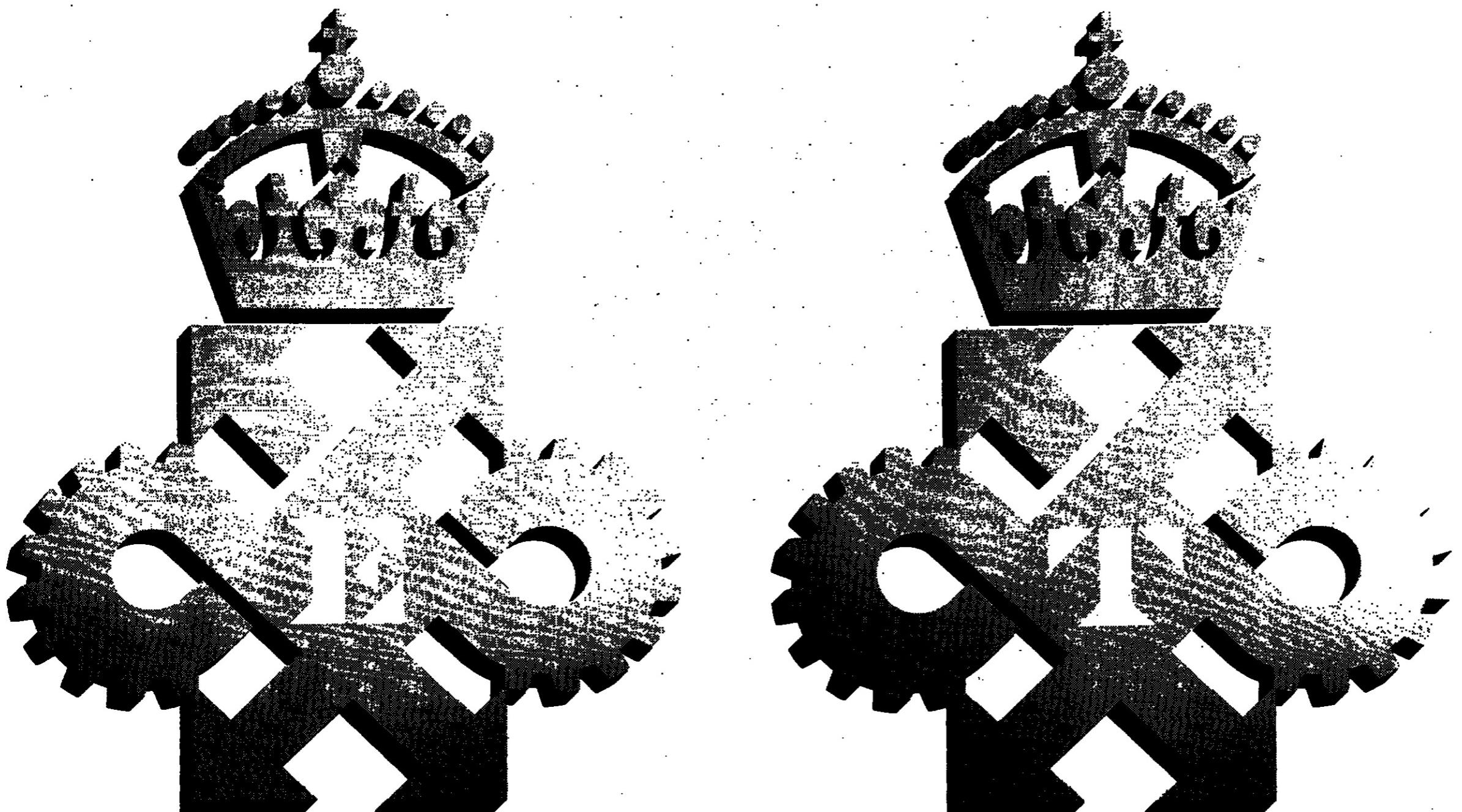


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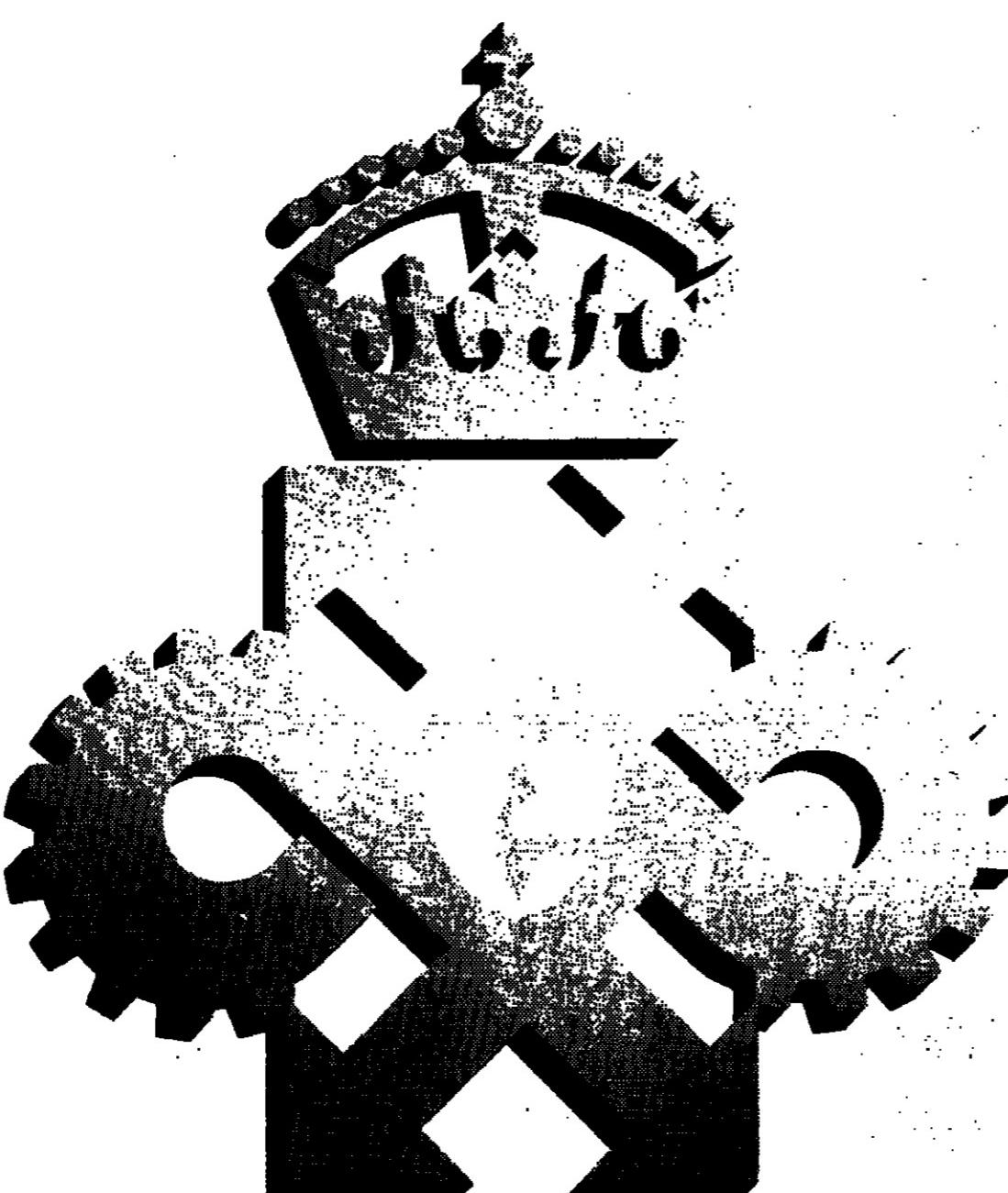
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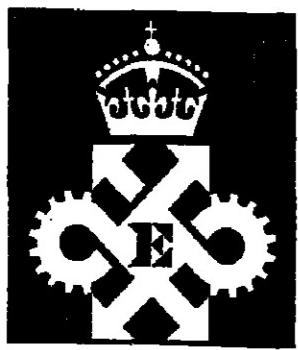
Carol Vorderman, presenter of *Jack in the Box*, has good reason to celebrate. Long-distance Starstream, which provides the satellite television children's channel, has quadrupled its customer numbers in the last four years.

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is proud to receive the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement for the Company's development of a new facility for use on the Invergordon fields in the UK North Sea. Particular thanks are expressed to all the contractors and suppliers who through their efforts have made this achievement. Thanks also go to our partners, Kerr-McGee Oil and Gas Limited, Kerr-McGee Pier Petroleum plc for their support.

# The 1992 Queen's Award winners



THE following have been granted the Queen's Award for Export Achievement.

**Aegis Group**, London SW1: media planning and buying. **Aerocontracts**, Horley, Surrey: aircraft spares and repairs.

**Amo-Coil**, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire: aluminium coil.

**APV Crepaco Pumps**, Eastbourne, East Sussex: stainless steel positive rotary lobe pumps.

**Associated Timber Services**, Newmarket, Suffolk timber merchants.

**J Barber & Sons**, South Shields, Tyne & Wear: country style clothing.

**Baxters Woodhouse & Taylor**, Macclesfield, Cheshire: ducting for the aircraft industry. **The Binding Site**, Edgbaston, Birmingham, West Midlands: test kits for medical research and diagnosis.

**Bisley Office Equipment**, Woking, Surrey: office equipment.

**British Aerospace (Commercial Aircraft)**, Hatfield, Hertfordshire: commercial aircraft and spares, wings for Airbus.

**British Gas**, On Line Inspection Centre, Cramlington, Northumberland: pipeline inspection service.

**British Soap**, Bicester, Oxfordshire: soap.

**British Steel General Steels Division**, Rotherham, Yorkshire: heavy structural steel.

**Britannia (T.R.) Hanley**, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire: transfer printing papers.

**BWE**, Ashford, Kent: continuous extrusion, cold pressure welding and wire and rod cleaning equipment.

**Chase Research**, Basingstoke, Hampshire: computer peripherals.

**Chloride Industrial Batteries**, Swinton, Greater Manchester: electric batteries.

**Club Safe Equipment**, Wolverhampton, West Midlands: safes, vaults, cabinets.

**City Technology**, Portsmouth, Hampshire: electrochemical gas sensors and accessories.

**G Clancy**, Halesowen, West Midlands: vehicle engine components.

**Clerical Medical International Insurance**, Douglas, Isle of Man: insurance and investment services.

**Colvera**, Romford, Essex: automotive sensors and potentiometers.

**Compaq Computer Manufacturing**, Bishopston, Renfrewshire, Scotland: computers and peripheral equipment.

**Compu Inc UK**, trading as CompuType, Hull, North Humberside: photographic bar code printed labels.

**Comgraphics**, Inverallochy, Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland: photomasks for semiconductors.

**Conoco**, London SE1: petroleum, coke and petroleum products.

**Contour Seals**, Farnborough, Hampshire: aircraft seats.

**Coors Ceramics Electronics**, Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland: ceramic substrates.

**Data Connection**, Enfield, Data Connection.



Looking up: Mr Michael Bly, of Hoyland Fox, Penistone, Sheffield, makers of garden, golf and fishing umbrella frames. More than half of the company's output is exported

**Middlesex**: computer software.

**C Davidson & Sons**, Aberdeen, Scotland: paperboard, plasterboard liners and chipboard.

**Denge Power Projects**, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire: electrical power supply equipment and turnkey projects.

**Domino Anjet**, Bar Hill, Cambridge: industrial ink-jet printers, and inks.

**Dowty Aerospace Gloucester**, Gloucester, aerospace equipment.

**Dunlop International Technology (DITL)**, Birmingham, West Midlands: manufacturing technology transfer and factory projects work.

**Dussek Campbell** - Engineering Division, Crawley, Kent: cable fusing applicators.

**EBI Foods**, Abingdon, Oxfordshire: foodstuffs.

**E S (Mammoth)**, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan, Wales: jigs.

**Euromoney Publications**, London EC4: financial publishers and conference organisers.

**Europe Scientific**, Crewe, Cheshire: mass spectrometers.

**Fabrics**, Ellesmere, Shropshire: farm milk storage tanks.

**Financial & Corporate Modelling Consultants**, Stainesware Division, London NW1: computer software.

**Format International**, Woking, Surrey: computer software for agriculture.

**Fortuna & Mason**, London, W1: foodstuffs.

**Fryett's Fabrics**, Clifton, Greater Manchester: furnishing fabrics.

**Fulleon**, Cwmbran, Gwent, Wales: electronic sounders.

**G B Glass Engineering** (Division of GB Glass), Chesterfield, Derbyshire: glass forming equipment and technology.

**Gloverall**, London NW2: woolen coats.

**Gödel Escher Bach**, London W1: management consultancy.

**GPT Payphone Systems**, Liverpool: payphones and cashless calling systems.

**Graceland** trading as Oakwood Design, Letchworth, Hertfordshire: machinery for use in bank card manufacture.

**Grants of Dalvey**, Alness, Ross-shire, Scotland: stainless steel giftware.

IN MOST years, more than 1,000 applications for a Queen's Award pass through the sifting process at the Queen's Awards Office in London's Horseferry Road. More than 3,000 winners have been selected since the awards began in 1965.

Two-thirds or more of the awards have been going to smaller businesses with 200 employees or fewer. A modest proportion of these are subsidiaries of bigger companies.

Screening of applications is done by a series of committees with an additional input from specialists. Likely winners come under scrutiny



Sir Robin Butler

from two committees. Then they go to a senior committee, the prime minister's advisory committee, as the awards are

made by the Queen on the advice of the prime minister.

Chairman of this senior committee is Sir Robin But-

ler, head of the home civil service. Two new faces for this year's awards are Sir John Fairclough, chairman of the Engineering Council, and Sir Hugh Bidwell, chairman of British Invisibles. Other members are Sir Peter Gregson, permanent secretary of the trade and industry department; Sir Derek Hornby, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board; Sir Alan Corby, president of the Confederation of British Industry; and Jack Jones, representing the Trades Union Congress. Two independent members are John E. Bolton and Mr J.M. Raisman.

ed tyres for cars and light trucks.

**Technograph Products**, Thetford, Norfolk: litho plate processing equipment.

**Thermosux**, Bangor, Northern Ireland: evacuating heat pipe solar collectors.

**Titronix Secure Science**, Swindon, Wiltshire: high security magnetic tape and tape readers.

**Thorntron Precision Forgings**, Sheffield, South Yorkshire: precision forged and machined components.

**Tibbett**, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire: axial swirl burner for reducing oxides of nitrogen.

**Timex**, Kettering, Northamptonshire: rotary printing presses.

**Tiptooth**, London SW1: transport asset rental.

**University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate**, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire: administration of examinations.

**The University of Manchester, Institute of Science and Technology**, Manchester: education and research.

**Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK)**, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear: motor vehicles.

**O.I.L.**, Woking, Surrey: support services for the offshore oil industry.

**Orbit Valve**, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire: valves and integrated valve control systems.

**Oxford Magnet Technology**, Eynsham, Witney, Oxfordshire: magnet systems for diagnostic imaging.

**Pall Europe**, Portsmouth, Hampshire: filtration products.

**SBJ Regis**, London EC4: insurance broking services.

**Schumacher Filters**, Handsworth, Sheffield, South Yorkshire: filters.

**Scotprime Seafoods**, Ayr, Ayrshire: seafood.

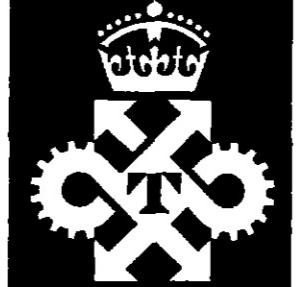
**Silvers**, London EC1: ladies' outerwear.

**Specialfix**, Syftleet, Surrey: computer boards.

**Stakehill Engineering**, Bolton, Lancashire: steel/plastic laminate and plastic mouldings to produce pallet dunnage.

**Starstream** trading as The Children's Channel, London WC2: TV programmes for children.

**Technic Group**, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire: retreaded machine tools.



The following have been awarded the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement 1992:

**APV Baker - Escalator Division**, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire: public service escalators.

**Ascon Computers Group**, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire: the ARM 32 bit, low cost RISC microprocessor.

**Amerada Hess**, London W1: floating production facility for offshore production of oil and gas.

**Amersham International - Pharmaceutical Division**, Amersham, Buckinghamshire: Cerecet, brain imaging agent.

**Andergauge**, Aberdeen, Scotland: adjustable stabiliser for drilled oil wells.

**Babcock Energy**, Renfrew, Scotland: axial swirl burner for reducing oxides of nitrogen.

**Timex**, Kettering, Northamptonshire: rotary printing presses.

**Valpar Industrial**, Bangor, Northern Ireland: drills dispenser tubes.

**Varn Products**, Irlam, Greater Manchester: chemicals for the printing industry.

**Wicks**, Newbridge, Midlothian, Scotland: poultry breeding, livestock.

**Yarrow**, Rumbold, Camberley, Surrey: aircraft interior products.

**Rolls-Royce**, Aerospace Group Civil Engine Business, Derby, Derbyshire: civil aero-engines and parts.

**Koss Breeders**, Newbridge, Midlothian, Scotland: poultry breeding, livestock.

**Orbit Valve**, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire: valves and integrated valve control systems.

**Partridge Holdings**, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire: natural history films.

**Scotprime Seafoods**, Ayr, Ayrshire: seafood.

**Safes**, London EC1: ladies' outerwear.

**Specialfix**, Syftleet, Surrey: computer boards.

**Stakehill Engineering**, Bolton, Lancashire: steel/plastic laminate and plastic mouldings to produce pallet dunnage.

**Williams Fairay Engineering**, Stockport, Cheshire: bridges.

**Xmac**, Wokingham, Berkshire: transmission systems.

**Yamazaki (Machinery) UK**, Worcester: computer controlled machine tools.

**Vikinson International**, Cowes, Isle of Wight: oil pollution control and recovery equipment.

**Warwick International**, Mostyn, Holywell, Clwyd, North Wales: specialty chemicals.

**Williams Fairay Engineering**, Stockport, Cheshire: bridges.

**Yamaha**, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire: car engines and components.

**Cotswold Pig Development Company**, Rotnwell, Lincolnshire: genetic improvement in litter size of pigs.

**Crosfield Electronics**, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire: computerised pagination system.

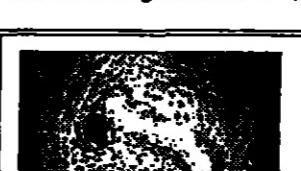
**Defense Research Agency - Optical and Display Science Division**, Malvern, Worcestershire: advanced mixtures for liquid crystal displays.

**Double R Controls**, Heywood, Lancashire: in-line certification of magnetic media.

**TSL Group**, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear: high purity quartz powder and ingots.

**Vector Fields**, Kidlington, Oxford, Oxfordshire: software for electro-magnetic device research.

**VideoLogic**, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire: full motion digital video adaptor for personal computers.



Cotton boll damage

**Fibronic Components**, Shipley, West Yorkshire: microwave switched multiplexer.

**Glanz Group Research**, Greenford, Middlesex: development of Cefuroxime Axetil, an orally active broad spectrum antibiotic.

**Hotwork Development**, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire: regenerative burner system for fuel-fired furnaces.

**IBM United Kingdom Laboratories**, Winchester, Hampshire: mathematically based computer software system.

**ICI Agrochemicals - the Insecticide Project Team of the Research and Development Department**, Haslemere, Surrey: synthetic pyrethroid insecticides.

**ICI Pharmaceuticals**, Macclesfield, Cheshire: development of Diprivan, an injectable general anaesthetic.

**In-Spec Manpower & Inspection Services - Electrical Projects Group**, Dyce, Aberdeen, Scotland: non-invasive fault diagnosis in AC induction motors.

**Lucas Nitrotec Services**, Birmingham, West Midlands: Nitrotec process to upgrade engineering performance of low alloy steels.

**Marconi Electronics - Stannmore Unit**, Stannmore, Middlesex: integrated microwave receiver for satellite television.

**Merck - Industrial Chemical Division**, Poole, Dorset: advanced mixtures for liquid crystal displays.

**Merrol Descaling**, Chesterfield, Derbyshire: epoxy resin process for refurbishing potable water mains.

**Oneiron**, London SE26: vibration pattern imager.

**Oxford Lasers**, Oxford, Oxfordshire: 100 watt copper laser.

**Oxford University Computing Laboratory**, Oxford, Oxfordshire:

## Breeding pigs by numbers

Awards given to agriculture include one for a computerised porcine dating service

**A**n novel computer dating scheme for pigs has won a Lincolnshire pig-breeding company the award for technology, writes Rodney Hobson. This method of speeding up the rate of genetic improvement in livestock has made Cotswold Pig Development Company the first such company to gain this distinction.

Cotswold achieved a breakthrough in pig breeding when, in 1986, it introduced its unique Group Nucleus Breeding Scheme. The basis is a new statistical technique known as Blup (best linear unbiased prediction), for which Cotswold developed specialised computer software.

Linked with artificial insemination, the scheme allows the performance of pigs on different farms to be compared with each other. Previously, genetic comparisons could only be made by measuring pigs in the same environment. This limited the numbers of pigs that could be tested and the rate of improvement.

Cotswold predicts that the technique will allow an extra pig per litter to be produced every five years, worth £2,000 a year to the farmer with a 250-sow herd.

Ross Breeders, part of Hillsdown Holdings, has gained its second export award for poultry breeding. It now exports half its total output to 60 countries world wide.

On the animal feeding side, an export award has been won by International Additives, part of the Hays group. Its products improve the taste of animal feed and pet foods. Through its overseas network of subsidiaries, offices and

distributors, it supplies an extensive spread of markets that has just been extended to China. Exports have risen sharply to account for more than half the total output.

The insecticide project team of the research and development department of ICI Agrochemicals gains the technology award for the development of pyrethroid insecticides for agricultural use.

These new pyrethroids are more active than the older forms, provide a high potency from low spraying rates and are degradable in the environment. A broad spectrum of pests, including some that are resistant to other insecticides, is controlled without damage to crops.

A joint award for technology has been won by Sheelbourne Reynolds Engineering at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and Stiso Research Institute in Bedfordshire, which have developed a stripper head for combine harvesters that takes grain or seeds from little chaff or leaf material, leaving most of the stalk standing in the field.

Subsequent stages of harvesting are more efficient. As well as being used for UK cereals, the device is in widespread use in North America, particularly for the rice crop.

Format International designs and manufactures specialist computer software for the world animal feed market. Its exports now account for 80 per cent of total earnings. Fabecel manufactures stainless steel milk tanks for dairy farmers and exports to Europe and Japan. Both have won the export award.

University research can become a vital, innovative source of income, reports Rodney Hobson

**C**ity Technology in Portsmouth, a subsidiary of City University, has won its second export award, bringing to four its awards total. It has been trading since 1977 and manufactures gas sensors to control safety, energy-saving and emissions. Two of its awards have been for technology, two for export.

City Technology exports more than 80 per cent of its products. Total exports have grown by 980 per cent since 1985 and markets include Europe, Australia, the Americas, India, Israel, Turkey and the Far East. The company hopes to double its £7.5 million turnover in the next few years.

A growing proportion of the foreign earnings at Umist (the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology) comes from research services and technology-transfer work carried out through its subsidiary, Umist Ventures. Research earnings come from 113 countries and research sponsorship has been received from 16 Japanese companies.

In 1990-91, Umist brought in more than £10 million, with research earning more than £2 million; student fees accounted for £6 million.

Professor Harold Hankins, Umist principal, says: "Few, if any, universities can match the 17 per cent of total income which we bring in from abroad."

Oxford University Computing Laboratory, in conjunction with



A broad degree on offer: George Bain, London Business School principal, whose programmes use material developed worldwide.

IBM United Kingdom Laboratories, has won a technology award for developing a computer programming method for use in the IBM Customer Information Control System. It is the first time that a university department has been granted a Queen's Award for the second time, and IBM is also a previous winner.

The achievement is the result of 10 years' collaboration that began after a chance meeting between Professor Tony Hoare, director of

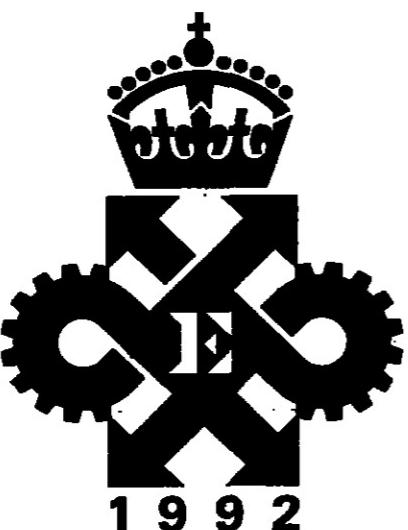
the programming research group at Oxford, and Tony Kenney, manager of the IBM system.

Professor Hoare says: "Our long-term partnership with IBM has contributed simultaneously to commercial advantage, to the progress of pure science and to the improvement of academic education."

London Business School, established in 1965, is one of the leading institutions of its kind in the world. Under Professor George Bain, the principal, it offers a broad portfolio

of degree and non-degree programmes to managers from all over the world. Teaching is through case studies and practical projects, designed in conjunction with businesses across the globe. All of its overseas earnings, which have doubled over the past three years, come from students' fees.

Set up in 1858, the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate is by far the largest UK-based examining body for English as a foreign language. The syndicate now has 450 full-time staff and more than 12,000 examiners; a million candidates sat eight million question papers in 1991. Full-time staff are stationed permanently in countries as diverse as Czechoslovakia, Turkey, Thailand and Namibia.



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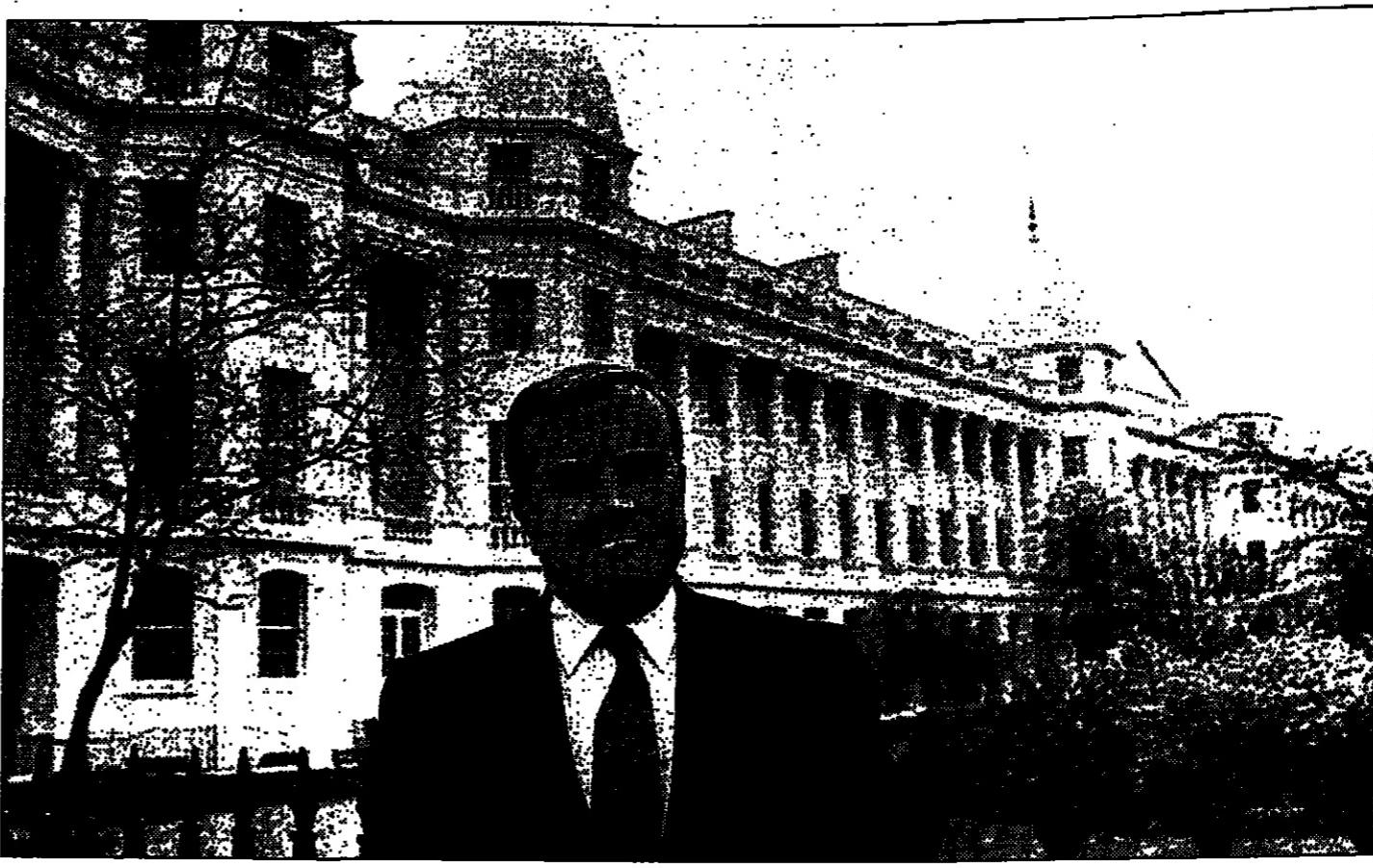
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## Study venture rewards



Firms may celebrate as they choose

## Time for pomp and ceremony

**S**pecialix, a Surrey-based company launched in 1986, is among the clutch of computer and computer peripherals companies to have won the award for export, writes Rodney Hobson. Specialix is now one of the biggest suppliers of micro-computer enhancement products in Europe, with turnover of more than £10 million.

Gödel Escher Bach, a small firm of management consultants based in London, aims its products, described as "user-pronostic", at computer-literate directors. Exports to Europe, the Far East and the US have more than trebled over the past three years, and account for more than 90 per cent of earnings.

Data Connection, also based in London, is used as an expert partner by the international giants including IBM, Microsoft, Hewlett Packard and NCR. More than £7 million of its £8 million turnover comes from exports. Profit, running at more than £2 million, is distributed to the 123 employees through a profit-related pay scheme and an employee benefit trust.

Compaq Computer Manufacturing at Bishopston, Gloucestershire, established in 1987, manufactures personal computers and peripheral equipment. Exports to Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Far East, Australasia and the US have increased freight services to and from Scotland.

## Chasing a global market

**L**ong and arduous bargaining can be part of the search for new export markets for technology, as Dunlop International Technology, part of the BTR group, has found, writes Rodney Hobson. The company provides services for transferring technology for companies within the BTR group and outside it.

A typical example was a £21 million order for the supply of manufacturing technology, engineering design, training and specialist machinery, mainly from the UK, for the Chongqing tyre factory in China's Sichuan province.

This contract involved a complex marketing operation but John Sharrock, managing director, says: "Many emerging nations are now coming to appreciate the benefits of licensing technology from successful companies in the West, and we believe that more and more UK companies will realise the advantages of manufacturing projects overseas."

Dunlop currently has projects underway in 10 countries and its award is for exports.

The Queen invites three representatives of each award-winning business to a Buckingham Palace party. They should represent the spectrum of the company's personnel.

ICI Pharmaceuticals celebrated in an unusual way when it won an award in 1991, by supporting two community projects. Its Cheshire-based employees gave £13,500 to set up a light and sound studio at Winslow, to help improve the communication skills of people newly out of hospital and with learning difficulties. Macclesfield Multiple Sclerosis Society benefited by being donated a purpose-built minibus.

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**INNS AND**  
**The French keep quiet**

ON THIS surface at least, relations between French and English lawyers remain cordial. The colloquium of the Franco-British Lawyers Society will take place in Paris on May 16 and 17. The programme will cover the use of judicial experts, succession law, pension funds and securities law – but not the controversial French law which in part sets out to restrict the activities of British lawyers in Paris. But then, French lawyers have always been happy to discuss French law with the British, so long as they do not try to practise it.

Attempts in the past to force foreign lawyers to adopt a similarly flexible approach with regard to property disputes between unmarried couples subsequently rejected by the courts. In sharp contrast to the positive

**Mortgage mate**

HARD times can prompt innovation. Hamlin Sloane, the West End solicitors, has developed a computer programme, a "mortgage recovery service", to help mortgage lenders as part of its secured lending group. The service features a computer link between clients and the firm. Clients now have access to the firm's files and can check the status of cases at any time – to see, for instance, which are outstanding.

# LAW TIMES



## Common-law crises

**L**iving together outside marriage has, over the past 25 years, become increasingly socially acceptable in England and Wales. The fact that nationally collected social statistics now include cohabitation as a separate category is evidence of official recognition of this "new" status. While the English language struggles to find appropriate terminology for the phenomenon, growing numbers of couples are choosing to cohabit either as a prelude or alternative to marriage.

Yet few of them give any serious thought to the legal consequences of their decision to cohabit until a crisis arises in the form of relationship breakdown, the death of their partner, or perhaps possession proceedings. Many assume wrongly that the law confers rights on cohabitantes in relation to occupation of the family home and other shared property, similar to those enjoyed by married couples, after a fixed period of cohabitation.

Such myths about "common law marriages" probably stem from rights which do exist within many other common-law jurisdictions, such as those that exist in Canada, Australia and the United States, where cohabitation is recognised as a relationship akin to marriage, and relationship breakdown disputes are governed by a divorce law equivalent founded on family law principles.

Unfortunately, this is not the case in England and Wales. Although recent changes to the law now incorporate in the Children Act 1989 do offer the possibility of some adjustment of unmarried parents' property for the benefit of their children, disputes between cohabitantes as to who should remain in the family home or what contributions each partner has made to its purchase are principally a matter of property law rather than family law.

Even though unmarried couples often arrange their affairs in the same way as married couples, pooling their income and dividing the wage-earning and home-making roles, the flexible principles which apply to married couples in this regard are not extended to the unmarried.

Attempts in the 1970s by Lord Denning to adopt a similarly flexible approach with regard to property disputes between unmarried couples were subsequently rejected by the courts. In sharp contrast to the position

### Couples who set up home without signing a marriage vow may find themselves unprotected by the law when domestic problems arise. Anne Barlow reports

of spouses, a long number of years caring for the home and children does not raise any entitlement to maintenance on relationship breakdown, and will not of itself give rise to any proprietary interest in a property owned by a cohabitante's partner. Neither will it increase the share of a cohabitante who is a joint owner and who has been disadvantaged in terms of earning capacity as a result. This often leaves a great sense of injustice, which may grow more acute the more socially acceptable cohabitation becomes.

This is not to say that cohabitantes are always treated as unconnected individuals. The piecemeal and inconsistent approach of the law with regard to such relationships makes legal advice important in relation to every proposed

### The piecemeal approach of the law with regard to cohabitantes makes legal advice important

award a married couple's income tax allowance to a cohabiting couple, even where one partner is working and the other their dependant.

Spoilshes automatically inherit from each other if they die without making a will. Yet a cohabitante will have no such entitlement to inherit from their deceased partner's estate. If, and only if, a cohabitante was dependent on their partner who died without making a will, or did not include them as a beneficiary, can they claim maintenance against the estate. But in both these situations, the law is far less generous than to a spouse in a similar position.

Cohabites in rented accommodation also face difficulties on relationship breakdown or death of their partner to which in some situations the law fails to provide any solution at all, no matter how long a partner may have resided there. Much will depend on the type of tenancy and whether the tenancy is in both their names or not. But where it protects spouses, the law does not provide any occupation rights of a family home for cohabitantes. Although the traditional legal disadvantages for children born of a cohabitation relationship have been removed, the law still does not treat them in the same way as children of a married couple at birth, as parental responsibility is given only to the mother.

Even the recent Children Act 1989 makes no distinction between children born outside marriage into a stable relationship and those born of a more casual encounter. However, the Act does at last provide a simple means for unmarried parents to agree formally to share parental responsibility. This broadly then places the parents in the

same position as married parents in relation to their children.

As these examples show, the legal consequences of living together outside marriage can be far-reaching and some couples choose not to marry to avoid state interference in their relationship, many do not appreciate their legal position. Housing, arrangements for children, financial provision on death or relationship breakdown are all matters that affect couples who live together as keenly as those who marry.

Other legal systems have found ways of dealing with the consequences of such relationships in their family law jurisdiction, yet there is no proposal to reform our law in this regard.

What can then be done by individual cohabitantes who want to safeguard their position and agree on arrangements?

Cohabitation contracts in which couples could declare the terms upon which their relationship is based and provide agreed solutions should their relationship break down are widely used in other jurisdictions but may not be enforceable in our law. Although cohabitantes can take steps to protect themselves in the event of death or relationship breakdown, as things stand it is wise to seek comprehensive legal reform.

There are numerous examples. Orders giving protection from a violent spouse can be obtained in the High Court, the county court and also the often more accessible magistrates' court. A cohabitante who is the victim of domestic violence has only the county court remedy.

Social security legislation treats men and women who "live together as husband and wife" in the same way as married couples with respect to means-tested benefits, which results in a net reduction of the benefit payable to the couple.

Yet non-means-tested benefits, such as the retirement pension, unemployment and sickness benefit, where entitlement is determined by national insurance contributions, include additional payments only for a dependent spouse and not a dependent cohabitante. Similarly, the Inland Revenue cannot

make no distinction between children born outside marriage into a stable relationship and those born of a more casual encounter. However, the Act does at last provide a simple means for unmarried parents to agree formally to share parental responsibility. This broadly then places the parents in the

### INNS AND OUTS

#### The French keep quiet

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been issued, hearing dates set, possession orders made, warrants issued or eviction notices sent.

#### Dished

ONCE upon a time, house deeds used to contain conditions that the property was not to be used as a brothel or as a tripe-dresser's shop. Now Rees Jones Developments, a Welsh building firm, has banned satellite dishes on houses it sells. Apparently, if several deaths are linked to the same incident, there may also be a separate independent enquiry.

Neither an inquest nor independent inquiry can determine questions of criminal liability. If criminal charges are brought, they are determined separately. The question of civil liability and any obligation to compensate relatives by the payment of damages is determined in yet a fourth separate forum. Though evidence that emerges in one court or enquiry can be useful material on which to base judgments in a separate court, the overlapping jurisdiction is

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## Unhealthy state of affairs

### When workplace accidents lead to inquests

often criticised as being unnecessarily wasteful of time and resources.

Inquest juries are specifically precluded from including in their verdicts any apportionment of civil liability for deaths; the nearest they can come to apportioning criminal responsibility is to return a verdict of "unlawful killing".

It is implicit in a verdict of "unlawful killing" that a crime has been committed, and concerning a workplace death the crime is most likely to be manslaughter. The fact of an unlawful killing verdict, while guaranteeing a police criminal investigation, does not necessarily mean that charges will follow. That may leave employers with the implication that their employee died because of a serious criminal act — but without a criminal trial they claim, inevitably add an adversarial approach to the proceedings.

not so clear whether a company itself can be guilty of corporate manslaughter, although most lawyers believe that it is possible.

Many observers consider there is an overwhelming case for reform of judicial and quasi-judicial procedures into workplace deaths. One possible solution would be to expand the powers of the independent judicial enquiry so as to enable the enquiry to adjudicate on matters of criminal and civil liability, to apportion blame, pass sentence and (where appropriate) assess and award damages.

Such a move would immediately render any further criminal or civil proceedings unnecessary and since there would be little more that could be achieved by a coroner's inquest, could also eliminate the need for inquests.

Many people believe that the main aim of any judicial enquiry must be to examine the facts so the incident is not repeated and that this is best achieved by encouraging witnesses to be entirely frank in their evidence. Effectively superimposing a trial on the proceedings of an inquiry would, they claim, inevitably add an adversarial approach to the proceedings.

GARETH WATKINS  
*The writer is a solicitor with Nabarro Nathanson*



geb

## A dressing-down for not dressing up

Judges have an infinite variety of ways in which to make the professional life of the advocate as difficult as possible. In 1983, the Californian Supreme Court ruled that it was wrong for a judge to respond to a submission from the district attorney by "poking him in the chest with his finger and telling him, 'buddy boy, you're not going to get away with this'".

In 1988, a judge of the US District Court was reprimanded for threatening to shoot a lawyer. A Californian judge was, in the same year, removed from office for a number of lapses from proper judicial standards, one of which was to tell an offensive joke to female lawyers who had the misfortune to be representing clients on an application before him.

One way in which the fussy judge may make a nuisance of himself is to focus on irrelevant questions of dress. A prime example was reported two weeks ago from the magistrates' court at Bridgend in Mid Glamorgan.

The chairman of the bench interrupted the sentencing of a defendant in a drink-drive case to order the defence solicitor, Mr Bill Loveluck-Edwards, to leave the court because his shoelaces were undone. The solicitor had undone his laces because his new shoes were uncomfortable.

On his return to court, he understandably complained that the magistrate had treated him like a child.

Judges and lawyers concerned about sartorial standards (whether their own or those of others) should be aware that a considerable case law has developed in the United States on the extent to which courts may regulate the dress of advocates.

In 1976, the Supreme Court of Florida held, by a majority of four to three, that it had no jurisdiction to consider an attorney's complaint about a lower court sentencing him to three days in jail for his refusal to wear a tie in court.

Justice England, dissenting, pointed out that the advocate's "personal appearance and attire, which included a suit, clean and pressed shirt, and a hanging gold medallion, were otherwise neat, attractive and proper". He wisely rejected "any inference that respect for the judicial system is dependent upon male attorneys wearing neckties".

The District Court of Appeal of California rejected an optimistic appeal against a criminal conviction in 1964. The defendant complained that on the first morning of the trial, the judge had ordered the female defence counsel to remove her hat while in court.

In 1969, the Supreme Court of New York Appellate Division, quashed the order of a judge prohibiting a female attorney from taking part in a case before him until she wore

"suitable, conventional and appropriate" clothes. He was offended by the fact that she was wearing a dress the hemline of which was five inches above her knee.

Justice Del Vecchio, dissenting, took a more conservative view. He was concerned that the dress "revealed substantially more of the human frame than is customarily displayed in a courtroom".

During an extraordinary case in 1984, that could only have occurred in California, a judge prohibited an advocate from appearing in his courtroom wearing a turban when there appeared to be no religious or other legitimate reason for such attire. The attorney declined to say why he wished to wear the turban.

Associate Justice Butler, for the Court of Appeal of California, delivered a grandiloquent opinion that "to require a lawyer to disclose religious beliefs as a condition to appear before a judge returns us to those troubled times our ancestors fled in their search for freedom from religious oppression".

The appeal court ordered that the lower court give a right of audience to the advocate "unless the court can establish through proper procedure that the turban interferes with or disrupts justice".

An advocate is unfortunate if the judge focuses on his shoelaces. Judicial irritation is more usually directed at lay people. Earlier this month, a crown court judge in Newcastle upon Tyne was angered by a noisy display of pleasure from the public gallery after a jury acquitted a defendant on a charge of wounding.

The judge ordered 12 members of the public to be detained in prison for the night. One of those so imprisoned later complained that he had not even been in the public gallery at the time. The acquitted defendant sadly explained that he "was released only to see my friends jailed for cheering the verdict. I was hoping to celebrate with my friends, but they were all locked up".

Perhaps the crown court judge had taken seriously one of A. P. Herbert's *Misleading Cases* where there is a footnote reference to *Marable v Rowntree*, where the jury, on being discharged, sang "For he's a jolly good fellow", and were committed for contempt.

Possibly the Bridgend magistrate in the shoelaces case had misunderstood John Mortimer's story in which Rumpole's cross-examination of a witness is interrupted by him being passed a message from Mr Justice Prestcold: "Your bands are falling down and showing your collar stud." As Rumpole curses to himself: "What was this, a murder trial or a bloody fashion parade?"

The author is a practising Queen's Counsel and a fellow of all Souls College, Oxford. His book, *Advocates* (Oxford University Press, £15), is published on Thursday

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## Private prosecution legitimate

**Regina v Bow Street Stipendiary Magistrate, Ex parte South Coast Shipping Company and Others.**

Before Lord Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Waterhouse

[Judgment April 13]

The fact that the public prosecuting authorities had instituted proceedings for a minor offence arising from an incident did not preclude a private prosecution being brought for a serious offence arising out of the same incident where there was evidence suggesting culpability.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when refusing the application of South Coast Shipping Co Ltd, Robert Samuel, Peter Malcolm Butcher, Frederic Darwell and George Greenwood to have their command by Sir David Hopkins, Bow Street Chief Stipendiary Magistrate, for trial in a private prosecution brought by Mr Ivor Glogg, the husband of a victim in the sinking of a Thames pleasure boat.

Mr Michael Hill, QC and Mr Michael Bowes for the applicants; Mr Michael Mansfield, QC and Miss Sally Bradley for the respondent.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said the disaster occurred when the Marchioness was run down in the Thames by the Bow belle, owned and operated by the first defendant, leaving 51 dead.

The master of the Bow belle, Captain Henderson, was charged under section 32 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988 as responsible through his acts or omissions for the woman's death. The Director of Public Prosecutions decided that no further

charges would be brought. On October 30, 1990 an application to the Divisional Court challenging the DPP's decision failed. The master was tried on two occasions on both of which the jury failed to reach a verdict and he was discharged.

Whether Parliament could have intended to exclude the possibility of the bringing of a private prosecution in such circumstances depended on sections 3 and 6 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

In section 3, subsections (2)(a), (c) and (d) provided for the circumstances in which the DPP would take over a prosecution while section 3(2)(b) provided for

him to institute proceedings. The difference of language was not accidental but was crucial, especially when one came to section 6. Section 6(1) had the effect of preventing a person from bringing a private prosecution in certain cases but not in the circumstances covered by section 3(2)(b).

Mr Hill had argued that section 6 should be read as being subject to an implied limitation where a prosecution is a safeguard against tardy or inactive prosecuting authorities.

His Lordship could see no reason for implying such a limitation. It was clearly intended to cover section 3(2)(b) cases where the DPP might institute proceed-

ings. Section 6(2) therefore contemplated the DPP taking over proceedings which he might have instituted himself. He might then decide to discontinue them as being contrary to the public interest or, if it was too late for that course of action, then to offer no evidence.

When so read section 3(2) and section 6 made a consistent useful and effective framework to allow members of the public to pursue cases as a safeguard against tardy or inactive prosecuting authorities.

Mr Justice Waterhouse agreed.

Solicitors: Hill Taylor Dickinson; Christian Fisher & Co.

Previous appeal relevant

**North Wiltshire District Council v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another**

Before Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Mann and Sir Michael Kerr

[Judgment April 15]

A previous appeal decision indistinguishable from the central case must ordinarily be a material consideration to be taken into account by a planning inspector. Failure to do so exposed the inspector's decision to challenge on the ground that it was not within his statutory powers.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the Secretary of State for the Environment against a decision of Mr Lionel Read, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, to quash an inspector's decision

allowing an appeal by Mr and Mrs Keith Clover, the second respondents, against a refusal of planning permission for a dwelling house on land at Norton, Wiltshire.

Mr Timothy Straker for North Wiltshire; Mr Stephen Richards for the secretary of state; the second respondents did not appear and were not represented.

LORD JUSTICE MANN said that when making his determination an inspector was obliged to have regard to matters including "other material considerations".

Previous decisions were capable of being material because like cases should be decided in a like manner so that there was consistency in the appellate process, although an inspector must always exercise his own judgment.

Lord Justice Purchas and Sir Michael Kerr agreed.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard for Mr G. C. Butteridge, Chippenham; Treasury Solicitor.

A practical test for the inspector was to ask himself whether if he decided the case in a particular way he was necessarily agreeing or disagreeing with some critical aspect in the decision in the previous case.

Where there was disagreement, the inspector had to weigh the previous decision and give his reasons for departing from it.

The materiality of the previous decision was apparent and the inspector had been made aware of it. The absence of any treatment of the matter in dispute in the inspector's decision substantially prejudiced the interests of the respondent council.

The only relevance that his pension entitlement had to the

shortfall, if any, between the pension to which he would have been entitled had he continued to work his full contract period, and the pension that he was in fact receiving as a result of the reduced service.

There did not appear to have been any reported case on the issue but there was clear authority on the deductibility of a disability pension from damages for loss of earning capacity in personal injury actions. In *Parry v Cleaver* [1970] AC 1 the House of Lords had held that a disability pension payable to a policeman was to be ignored in assessing financial loss by way of loss of earning capacity.

In *Smoker v London Fire and Civil Defence Authority* [1991] 2 AC 502 an attempt was made to argue that *Parry* had been

## Damages not cut by pension

**Hopkins v Norcross plc**

Before Mr David Latham, QC

[Judgment April 9]

Money received by way of pension arising out of a termination of employment was not to be set off against the damages to which the former employee was entitled

where the termination of contract of employment was wrongful.

Mr David Latham, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held in assessing damages to be awarded to the plaintiff, Mr John Edward Hopkins, for wrongful dismissal, against the defendants, Norcross plc.

Mr Stephen Auld for the plaintiff; Mr Philip Naughton, QC and Mr Adrian Lynch for the defendants.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the question was whether or not damages received by way of pension arising out of a termination of employment were to be set off against the damages to which the former employee was entitled where the termination of the contract of employment was wrongful.

The defendants said that sum was deductible for if the plaintiff had not been dismissed, he would have continued to earn his salary up to October 1, 1991. His only contractual entitlement was to that sum of money. Since he received precisely the same sum of money by way of pension which would not have been payable but for the termination, he had lost nothing.

The only relevance that his pension entitlement had to the

computation of damages was the shortfall, if any, between the pension to which he would have been entitled had he continued to work his full contract period, and the pension that he was in fact receiving as a result of the reduced service.

From the cases, in damages for personal injury, no distinction was drawn between a disability pension and a retirement pension.

It seemed to his Lordship that, on the authorities, there was no basis for a different approach to deductibility of a pension dependent upon whether the claim was in contract or in tort.

It would not be particularly satisfactory if the answer to the question of whether or not a pension was to be deducted depended upon the way in which the claim was formulated.

As a matter of law the pension payments received by the plaintiff

were not deductible from the figure which had been agreed as the damages for wrongful dismissal. Despite the fact that that gave the appearance of double recovery, it followed necessarily from the character of pension arrangements.

It also had the virtue of ensuring that the plaintiff was in the same position as he would have been in had he made his own separate pension provision.

In the absence of any express terms in an occupational pension provided by employers or in the contract of employment, it would seem to be illogical and unjust for there to be a different result merely because the pension was provided by the employer.

Solicitors: Clifford Chance; Slaughter & May.

## Prudence not relevant

**Secretary of State for Social Security v Julian**

Lack of financial prudence in entering into a mortgage agreement was not a relevant factor in a claim for income support in respect of mortgage payments, nor was the amount that could be claimed subject to a ceiling under paragraph 10(6) of the Income Support General Regulations [SI 1987 No 1967].

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Mann and Sir Michael Kerr) so stated on April 2 in dismissing an appeal by the Secretary of State for Social Security against the decision of Mr Commissioner Johnson who had allowed an

mortgage amounted to £1,753.71 a week.

His Lordship said that paragraph 10(6) showed that it was ability at the time of entry that was material. The tribunal had looked to prudence not ability and the commissioner had been correct to set aside its decision.

In deciding that Mr Julian had the ability at the time of entry, the commissioners had relied on a finding of fact which, on the evidence before him, was not open to challenge. The sum involved was spectacular but the same rules applied to Mr Julian as to those with more modest mortgages, for the regulations contained no ceiling upon the amount of relevant commitment.



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## Titley enjoys star billing again on talented Vanton

FROM OUR RACING CORRESPONDENT AT FAIRYHOUSE

JASON Titley, who first came under the spotlight when winning The Ladbrokes in January on How's The Boss, added another spectacular victory on Vanton in the Jameson Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse yesterday.

His other handicap wins this season include Grand Habit (Twelves Chase) and My View (Coral Golden H.

There was a 20-length gap back to River Tarquin and only nine of the 23 starters completed the course.

Among those who pulled up was Peter Scudamore's mount, Captain Dibble. A bad blunder nine fences from the finish sent the Nigel Twiston-Davies raider beaming a hasty retreat and Scudamore wisely pulled him up half-a-mile from home.

Scudamore reported: "We were determined to have a go here, though we recognised that this race would probably come a shade too soon after his win in the Scottish National."

Scudamore did not have a journey in vain however as he rode the Jeremy Maxwell-trained Johnny's Turn to win the IRE10,000 Jet Oil Dunshaughlin Handicap Hurdle. Once again, this was a case of a novice beating the seasoned handicappers.

### Fairyhouse details

Going: yielding  
3.25 JAMESON IRISH GRAND NATIONAL (Handicap chase, listed race, IRE20,000-50)  
1. VANTON (3-1): Jason Titley, 13-2; 2. Over The Road (F Stables), 3-1; 3. River Tarquin (K Morgan), 22-1; 4. New Mill (T J Taaffe), 20-1; 5. All Rounder (P Muller), 18-1; 6. Captain Dibble (F Gates), 11-1; 7. Rawhides (7-1); 8. Ebony Jane (R Mullen), 14-1; 9. Staffie (G McLean), 12-1; 10. Mrs. E. (J. C. Moore), 10-1; 11. Precious Memories (D P McCann), 11-1; 12. Precious Memories (D P McCann), 11-1; 13. Mr. & Mrs. (D P McCann), 11-1; 14. Foxy (P Muller), 11-1; 15. Golden Torque (H Bassett), 11-1; 16. Brigadier (J. C. Moore), 7-2; 17. ALSO RAN (P Muller), 11-1; 18. Dandy Gabrieles (P Muller), 11-1; 19. Pretty Legend (P Muller), 11-1; 20. Perfect Picnic (P Muller), 11-1; 21. PRETTY LADY (P Muller), 11-1; 22. Dandy Gabrieles (P Muller), 11-1; 23. PRETTY LADY (P Muller), 11-1; 24. PRETTY LADY (P Muller), 11-1; 25. PRETTY LADY (P Muller), 11-1; 26. PRETTY LADY (P Muller), 11-1; 27. PRETTY LADY (P Muller), 11-1; 28. PRETTY LADY (P Muller), 11-1; 29. PRETTY LADY (P Muller), 11-1; 30. 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THE TIMES TUESDAY APRIL 21 1992

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AIRYHILL

# Army Of Stars to march home

**ARMY OF STARS**, from Clive Brittan's Newmarket stable, looks set to make a successful return to Warwick today by landing the Bradford & Bingley Heart Of England's Historic Handicap there, having already won a slightly longer race on the same track in March.

Since then Army Of Stars has been beaten into seventh place over two miles at Newbury, where lack of stamina brought about his defeat after he held a good position two furlongs from home.

Even so, he still managed to finish just over two lengths in front of Beebob, one of his rivals again today, whom he

meets now on 4lb better terms. When he won the Coventry Cup on his previous start, Army Of Stars left Gulf Palace and Saffaaah toiling in his wake.

Piggott can expect a good ride on Rare Detail, who was beaten only a length by Western Dynasty on her seasonal debut.

Piggott clearly has a fine chance of winning the Courier Maiden Stakes for Henry Cecil on Pavonis, who was relegated to second place by his better-fancied stable companion, Pabouche, the only form now rests on much stronger foundations.

Whereas Army Of Stars has already shown that he will relish the current going on the Midlands track, Matador, the top weight, could easily find it too tacky and the distance too short.

On the other hand, Lester

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

Piggott can expect a good ride on Rare Detail, who was beaten only a length by Western Dynasty on her seasonal debut.

Pabouche, the only form now rests on much stronger foundations.

The first division of the Warwick Castle Maiden Stakes can go to Green Lane,

who was beaten only a neck by Royal Pressure on the same track last year.

The second division is best left to Majboor, whose third behind River Defensive and Rebel Call at Newbury eleven days ago gives him the beating of Polish Blue. Trooping looks the pick of the remainder.

On the jumping front at Chepstow, the cheers that would greet a victory for Royal Pavilion at the end of the Fulke Walwyn Handicap Chase would surely be deafening because the horse in question is owned by the Queen Mother and trained for her by her late and great

trainer's widow, Cath. While conceding that sentiment plays no part in the destiny of prize-money in this hard-fought sport, I do suggest that Royal Pavilion has a good chance of making that a most memorable occasion.

His first, if somewhat late start to the season came at Ludlow a fortnight ago when he finished sixth behind Plat Reay, beaten only eight lengths.

Finally, Good Tomic, who did this column a good turn when landing the nap at Newbury last month, is taken to do likewise by winning the Crossley Handicap Chase at Wetherby.

<b>MANDARIN</b>	<b>THUNDERER</b>	<b>BRIAN BEEL</b>
2.00 Ebony Gale.	2.00 Ebony Gale.	4.00 Rushing Wild.
2.50 Beach Road.	2.50 Beach Road.	
3.00 Royal Pavilion.	3.00 River Boundary.	
3.30 Delightful.	3.30 Delightful.	
4.00 Rushing Wild.	4.00 Rushing Wild.	
4.30 Vagabond.	4.30 Vagabond.	

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.30 AUVILLAR.

**GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT PATCHES)**

<b>2.00 MAJOR NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£1,968; 3m) (19 runners)</b>
1 0-1000 WINNER FOR WINNERS 17 (C/S) (Tony Water Sport) P Hobbs 6-11-1 Mr M Holland (7)
2 005-10 ARTFUL ARTHUR 22 (D.G.S) (P. Beck) J McCorquodale 6-11-1 R Guest 98
3 0221 EBONY GALE 32 (D.G.S) (P. Whelby) M. Petrie 6-11-8 P Scudamore 98
4 05-11 KEEPOFF-THE-GRASS 6 (F) (Upson) J Upson 6-11-8 P Scudamore 98
5 039-12 CROWN 18 (D.F.G.S) (P. Pipe) M Pipe 6-11-8 P Scudamore 98
6 040-13 COBRA 25 (D.F.G.S) (P. Pipe) M Pipe 6-11-8 P Scudamore 98
7 040-14 ERICALL MILLER 76 (D. P. Whelby) K. Miller 6-11-8 P Scudamore 98
8 050-15 GLOVE PUPPET 33 (D. G. P. Whelby) G. Bolding 6-11-8 P. Guest 98
9 07-10 HONEST MEMBER 10 (D. Thorne) D. Thorne 6-11-8 P. Guest 98
10 000-14 MYSTERY MAN 18 (D.J. Hales) K. Hales 6-11-8 P. Guest 98
11 02-12 PUPPY 18 (D.J. Hales) K. Hales 6-11-8 P. Guest 98
12 04-13 RUFFINSPINK 39 (L. Ward) P. Jones 6-11-8 P. Guest 98
13 00-205 BOSSBURY HILL 11 (H. Jackson) H. Jackson 6-11-8 P. Guest 98
14 02-14 SPARTAN 17 (D. Jackson) D. Jackson 6-11-8 P. Guest 98
15 04-222 SPARTAN 17 (D. Jackson) D. Jackson 6-11-8 P. Guest 98
16 0-100 HOW DOUDO 10 (L. Ward) T. Bailey 6-11-8 P. Guest 98
17 0-100 HOW DOUDO 12 (L. Ward) T. Bailey 6-11-8 P. Guest 98
18 0-100 HOW DOUDO 16 (L. Ward) T. Bailey 6-11-8 P. Guest 98
19 0-P.J. JOHNEY 16 (T. Price-Wandesford) K. Bokop 7-11-1

BETTING: 4/1 Ebony Gale, 5/1 Watch To It, 6/1 Keepoff-The-Grass, 7/1 Gray's Ellengy, 8/1 Warmer For Winners, 12/1 Artful Arthur, 16/1 others.

1991: SPARTAN TIMES 7-11-2 J. Hallion (11-1) T. Forster 8 ran

**FORM FOCUS**

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BETTING: 4/1 Ebony Gale, 5/1 Watch To It, 6/1 Keepoff-The-Grass, 7/1 Gray's Ellengy, 8/1 Warmer For Winners, 12/1 Artful Arthur, 16/1 others.

1991: SPARTAN TIMES 7-11-2 J. Hallion (11-1) T. Forster 8 ran

**FORM FOCUS**

<b>2.30 WELSH NOVICES CHAMPIONSHIP CHASE (24,230; 2m) (2 runners)</b>
1 2142P CYPRHATE 19 (C.D.G.S) (Alles Smith & Jones Racing Ltd) M Pipe 6-11-12 P Scudamore 98
2 031PU BEECH ROAD 6 (D.G.F.G.S) (A. Geake) G. Bolding 10-11-9 R Guest 99
3 00-25 BEECH ROAD 6 (D.G.F.G.S) (A. Geake) G. Bolding 10-11-9 R Guest 99
4 00-25 CYPRHATE 19 (C.D.G.S) (Alles Smith & Jones Racing Ltd) M Pipe 6-11-12 P Scudamore 98
5 00-25 CYPRHATE 19 (C.D.G.S) (Alles Smith & Jones Racing Ltd) M Pipe 6-11-12 P Scudamore 98

BETTING: 4/5 Beech Road, 11-10 Cyphrate.

1991: HIGH KNOWL B-11-6 P Scudamore (11-8) M Pipe 4 ran

**FORM FOCUS**

<b>3.00 FULKE WALWYN HANDICAP CHASE (£2,590; 2m 4f) (8 runners)</b>
1 212000 SIRAH JAY 17 (CD,F.G.S) (J. Gandy) G. Bolding 12-11-11 R Guest 98
2 2-1842 EASHTHAW 67 (D.F.G.S) (J. Sainsbury) T Foster 10-11-12 C. Lawless 98
3 0-212142 EBONY GALE 32 (D.G.S) (P. Whelby) M. Petrie 6-11-8 P Scudamore 98
4 00-212142 EBONY GALE 32 (D.G.S) (P. Whelby) M. Petrie 6-11-8 P Scudamore 98
5 00-212142 EBONY GALE 32 (D.G.S) (P. Whelby) M. Petrie 6-11-8 P Scudamore 98
6 121251 RIVER BOUNTY 18 (D.F.G.S) (J. Upson) J. Upson 6-10-9 P Scudamore 98
7 3R241-6 ROYAL PAVILION 13 (D.G.S) (O. Davies) Mrs F. Watson 6-10-5 R Dunwoody 98
8 121251 KISSANE 28 (D.G.S) (J. Davies) Mrs F. Watson 6-10-5 R Dunwoody 98

BETTING: 11-14 River Bounty, 10-13 Eashtaw, 5-1 Sirah Jay, 10-11 Ebony Gale, 11-12 Royal Pavilion, 12-13 Kissane.

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8 121251 KISSANE 28 (D.G.S) (J. Davies) Mrs F. Watson 6-10-5 R Dunwoody 98

BETTING: 11-14 River Bounty, 10-13 Eashtaw, 5-1 Sirah Jay, 10-11 Ebony Gale, 11-12 Royal Pavilion, 12-13 Kissane.

**FORM FOCUS**

<b>3.45 WARWICK CASTLE MAIDEN STAKES (Div I: 3-Y-O colts &amp; geldings: £2,324; 1m) (15 runners)</b>
1 (1) 0-1000 TRIAL TIMES 231 (D) (Times of Wigton) P. O'Gorman 9-7-7 R. Edwards 98
2 (6) 00-2000 CROWN LADY 18 (D) (P. B. Roddy) N. Graham 9-7-7 R. Edwards 98
3 (12) 0



# West Indies give bouncer rule short shrift



Cowdrey: blames umpires

**H**undreds of children spend the Easter holiday here flying their colourful kites in the centre of the racecourse, the kite-tails billowing like the palm-leaves in the gentle trade winds against an idyllic sky. Down at the Kensington Oval, however, these are not such halcyon days.

Sir Colin Cowdrey's election as chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) was met with less than unanimous approval, some Commonwealth countries being weary of the continuity of English administration. For the past three days, he has encountered unbroken criticism of last October's regulation of one bouncer per batsman per over from every official of the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB), from the president, Clyde Walcott, downwards.

The face of Test cricket has been changed. As Wessels, the indomitable Hudson and Kuiper have demonstrated in a Test match historic in more ways

than one, the menace of West Indies' traditionally fearsome pace bowlers has been blunted.

"They [the WICB] feel disgruntled with what we've done, saying that it is aimed specifically at them," Cowdrey said yesterday. "Yet, when I became chairman, we had to ask whether this [hostile bowling] was the game we wanted, was it the game the players wanted to play and was it not cricket, that it was another game, and it is our job to preserve the spirit of the game."

Cowdrey recalls being told by Les Ames that, on the way home from the Bodyline tour in 1933, he, Bob Wyatt and Herbert Sutcliffe agreed — Douglas Jardine and Gubby Allen having travelled separately — that bodyline should be buried for ever; but Ames, who was England manager on Cowdrey's first West Indies tour as captain in 1967-8, had shrewdly observed that if ever big money

came into the game, the theory would inevitably rear its head again.

Things went wrong, Cowdrey reflects, because umpires did not exert the influence at their disposal; and captains were effectively dictating a policy for expediency. The old regime of shacking hands afterwards and going off for a pint had vanished.

During the career of Cowdrey — a batsman noted for his ability against fast bowling — the game was gradually altering. When he first walked out against Lindwall and Miller, he had no added protection other than a towel strapped to his thigh. "I never had the impression they were going to aim at me," he recalls.

It was the commercial impact of the Packer series that changed everything, following as it did the 5-1 drubbing of West Indies by Australia in 1975-6.

your off-stump ball and you had to play a stroke".

Is one bouncer per batsman per over too restrictive, Cowdrey wonders? Yet if the limit was increased, two, then in 30 overs with the new ball before lunch, 120 bouncers, given a single in each over, would become theoretically legitimate.

Cowdrey reflects that even Sir Donald Bradman, the master of the hook, disliked the ball aimed at the head against which it is impossible to play a proper stroke; and that Bradman would like to see the one-day rule applied to Test cricket — the ball delivered at the throat to be a no-ball and a run conceded.

"There has been too much of that for the good and the fun of the game," Cowdrey says. "May be one bouncer only is too strict, but it will make the captains think more about tactics, about bowling changes. We want to encourage self-regulation, in the way it exists in golf. One West Indies official, whom I will not

name, has admitted to me that the regulation will improve their bowlers."

This is not the view of the majority of fanatical Barbados spectators. Gladstone Holder has been sitting in the same seat behind the bowler's arm in the Challengers stand since 1955, and has not missed a Test except in 1959, when he was in Britain for an eye operation.

**Y**esterday, he said laughingly: "The people who did this should be taken out and shot. Bowlers are not there as servants of the batsmen; they should be free to make the ball lift, and it's up to the batsman to deal with it." The irony is, of course, that had the regulation been proposed in the Seventies, then Australia, who as founders of ICC with England have the power of veto, would have blocked the regulation. West Indies have not that right.

Test match report, page 34

Seeds struggle in world snooker championship

## McManus keeps young players in ascendancy

By PHIL YATES

THE prowess of snooker's emergent youth, illustrated so graphically by Peter Ebdon's remarkable 10-4 victory over Steve Davis on Sunday night, was again in evidence as Alan McManus beat Mike Hallett, the eighth seed, 10-8 in the first round of the Embassy world championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, yesterday.

McManus, voted young player of the year in 1991, has already proved on numerous occasions during his 20-month professional career that he has a strong temperament. That, in addition to the inconsistency of his opponent, were the main factors behind the result.

Hallett, whose season has plunged into crisis since he captured the Belgian and Scottish Masters titles last September, trailed 7-3 but won two frames after facing hefty deficits before McManus made a break of 83 in the thirteenth and won the next on the black to move four ahead with five to play.

This seemingly impregnable lead was eroded to only one frame, at 8-9, but Hallett's loose safety shot in the eighteenth ended the late rally. McManus held his composure to fashion a break off 44. He now awaits the winner of the first round match between Dennis Taylor and Mick Price, which concludes today.

Neil Foulds, the world No.6, laboured to a 4-2 lead over Jason Ferguson, ranked 102 places below him and making his first appearances in the final stages of the championship. The first frame lasted 66 minutes — three minutes shorter than the longest ever at the Crucible — while Foulds's best effort was a 132 total clearance in the sixth.

Jim Wych, the amiable Canadian who reached the quarter-finals in 1980 and has not won a match at this venue since, recovered to beat Dean Reynolds, the world No.12, 10-7. Reynolds will now lose his place in the top 16 when the rankings receive their annual revision at the end of the event.

Leading 7-3, Wych, the world No.57, briefly wavered. A 114 break, the first century of the final stages, allowed Reynolds to level at 7-7. Wych, one of only two playing



Well-earned break: Ebdon savouring success yesterday after his defeat of Davis professionals with a university degree, passed this considerable examination of character by taking the next three frames, the last on the black.

"I haven't been totally committed to snooker like most of the other players," said Wych, who has missed a total of three years on the circuit establishing snooker clubs in Edmonton and his native Calgary. Another season-long sabbatical was forced upon him when his father underwent open-heart surgery.

"The clubs were set up as

my security blanket and now they are going well and my father is also fully recovered," Wych said.

"He's just reached 82 and all he's interested in is reducing his golf handicap. Even without my problems, I've lacked dedication and desire, unlike these youngsters, who all have the eye of the tiger."

One of the youngsters in question, James Wattana, made light of his first appearance here. He compiled six breaks over 40, including a 61 in the last frame of the session, to move into a virtual-

ly unassailable 7-2 lead over Tony Jones, last year's European Open champion.

RESULTS: First round: Sunday: P Ebdon (Eng) 6-4 Davis (Eng); P Ebdon (Eng) 12-10, S. Davis (Eng) 8-9, M. Hallett (Eng) 10-8, J. Wych (Can) 10-7, D. Taylor (Eng) 10-7, N. Foulds (Eng) 10-2, J. Ferguson (Eng) 4-2. Frame scores (Foulds first): 102-49, 87-16, 93-21, 45-63, 132-0, 69-23, 121-7.

## WEIGHTLIFTING

### Bulgarians fail second drugs test

**S**ofia: Six members of Bulgaria's national team were banned from competition for two years yesterday after a second drugs test on them proved positive. The weightlifters, who include two former world champions, tested positive on Sunday following an initial routine test by their coaches at the National Sports Medicine Centre before the European championships, which begin in Hungary tomorrow.

Urine samples taken 48 hours earlier showed the lifters had used the weight-reducing diuretic, saluretin.

The six lifters include Petar Stefanov, the 1989 world champion in the 110kg category, and Plamen Brataychev, the 1989 world champion at 82kg. (Reuters)

**FOOTBALL**

7.30 unless stated

**Barclays League**

Second division

Ipswich v Grimsby (7.45)

Leicester v Cambridge Utd (7.45)

Peter Vale v Charlton (7.45)

**Third division**

Peterborough v Swindon

Preston v Birmingham (all ticket)

Shrewsbury v Bradford

**Fourth division**

Mansfield v Halifax

Walsall v Carlisle (7.45)

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## RUGBY UNION

Heineken Welsh League

First division

Cardiff v Newport (7.15)

## RUGBY LEAGUE

STONE'S BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: Play-offs: Preston v Bradford (7.15); Oldham v Middlesex (7.15); Leigh v Doncaster (8.15); Huddersfield v Hull.

LORD'S: Middlesex v Minor Counties

HOVE: Sussex v Surrey

CHELMSFORD: Essex v Lancashire

FORFAR: Scotland v Northamptonshire

CANTERBURY: Kent v Somerset

EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Yorkshire

DURHAM: University v Durham

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: Gloucester v Worcester

KENT: Kent v Kent

LANCASHIRE: Lancashire v Lancashire

MIDDLESEX: Middlesex v Middlesex

NORTHANTS: Northants v Northants

NOTTS: Nottinghamshire v Nottinghamshire

SURREY: Surrey v Surrey

SUSSEX: Sussex v Sussex

WARWICKS.: Warwickshire v Warwickshire

WEST YORKSHIRE: West Yorks v West Yorks

WORCESTERSHIRE: Worcestershire v Worcestershire

YORKSHIRE: Yorkshire v Yorkshire

ZIMBABWE: Zimbabwe v Zimbabwe

OTHER SPORT

SNOKER: World Championship (Sheffield)

PRO-DARTS: Second division Gold Cup (Milton Keynes & Bletchley (7.30))

TELEVISION: Midland Bank Junior County Cup (Bournemouth)

## WEIGHTLIFTING

Bulgarians

fail second

drugs test

## CRICKET

Benson & Hedges Cup

Final: Cardiff v Newport (7.15)

WEIGHTLIFTING

Bulgarians

fail second

drugs test

## WEIGHTLIFTING



## FOOTBALL

# Davenport comes back to haunt Middlesbrough

Sunderland.....1  
Middlesbrough.....0

By LOUISE TAYLOR

**IPSWICH TOWN:** Today: Grimsby Town (25); Oxford United (4). May 2: Brighton (h).

**LEEDS CITY:** Today: Cambridge United (h), 25; Coventry (a), 26; Newcastle United (h).

**MIDDLESBROUGH:** April 25: Bristol Rovers (h), 25; Grimsby Town (h), May 2: Newcastle United (a).

**CAMBRIDGE UNITED:** Today: Leicester City (a), 25; Port Vale (h), 26; Walsall (a), 27.

**DERBY COUNTY:** April 25: Bristol City (a), May 2: Swindon Town (h).

**CHARLOTTE ATHLETIC:** Today: Port Vale (h), 25; Walsall (a), 26; Tranmere Rovers (h), May 2: Bristol Rovers (a).

**BIRMINGHAM ROVERS:** April 25: Walsall (h), 25; Sunderland (a), May 2: Plymouth Argyle (a).

**STOKE CITY:** April 25: Plymouth Argyle (a), 22; Sunderland (a), May 2: Derby (a).

**PORTRUSH:** Tomorrow: Watford (h), 25; Newcastle United (a), May 2: Brighton (a), May 2: Barnsley (h).

The prospect of Sunderland and Middlesbrough again playing second division football next season increased after an entertaining North-East derby at Roker Park yesterday.

Defeat finally dented Middlesbrough's hopes of automatic promotion, while victory diminished the possibility of demotion for the FA Cup finalists. To rub salt in Middlesbrough's wounds, the winning goal was scored by one of their old boys.

In the 22nd minute, Peter Davenport, who has not been prolific for Sunderland this season, met and controlled Sampson's long ball on the right, then cut inside and struck a shot of the highest calibre from 20 yards with the outside of his right foot.

Pears got his fingers to the ball but was powerless to prevent Davenport claiming the sort of goal he has rarely scored since his Nottingham Forest days. He was a disappointment during his time at Middlesbrough and this was only his third League goal

this season, but could not have been better timed from Sunderland's viewpoint.

Once ahead, the Cup finalists showed the pride and passion which had been conspicuously absent during a run of seven defeats in eight League games. Indeed, Davenport came close to collecting a second goal in the second half following a dreadful mistake by Mohan. Gittens looked extremely vulnerable alongside him in the centre of Middlesbrough's defence, and Sunderland

looked capable of adding to the score.

Middlesbrough's initial formation - a five-man midfield and lone forward failed to produce the desired effect, and they brought Payton and Slaven off the bench in an ultimately forlorn attempt to turn the heat on.

Ripley, Middlesbrough's often dangerous wide player, had spent the first half being frustrated by Pears, and it proved a similar story when he switched flanks and was staved by Kay after the interval.

In front of defence, Sunderland were strengthened by the return of Owers to the midfield for his first full game since a serious groin injury in January.

His comeback increases the pressure for Wembley places and such competition is just what the Sunderland players require to dispel any lingering relegation fears in their last four second-division games.

**SUNDERLAND:** A Norman, J Kay, G Owen, G Bennett, A Roger, I Sampson, P Phillips, S Houghton, S Thompson, S P Hardwick, S Keane (sub: D Paul), B Allinson.

**CHARLOTTE ATHLETIC:** A Payton, C Pelling, J Phillips, A Gittens, N Mohan, S Slaven, A Pease, M Proctor (sub: A Payton), W Falconer, P Wilkinson, J Heaslip, S Ripley, Referee: G Courtney.

## Stoke are closer to stepping up

Stockport County.....0  
Stoke City.....0

By KEITH PIKE

LOU Macari, who has tasted despair as manager of both Swindon Town and West Ham United, is on the verge of savoring perhaps his sweetest moment with Stoke City. A draw at Edgeley Park yesterday keeps the Potters club firmly on course for promotion after two seasons in the third division.

Victories in their last two games, at home to lowly Chester City next Saturday and at Bolton on May 2, will ensure they do without recourse to the play-offs.

It would be as well for Macari's slightly greying locks if they do. This ticket, all-tension match illustrated perfectly how even the most experienced players can buckle under pressure when the winning post is in sight.

With Macari urging his men forward in the second half, Stoke chose instead to surrender the initiative in midfield and bolster further their five-man defence. But for a number of timely interventions by Noel Blake, it was a tactic which could have proved their undoing. They

had looked so much better in the first twenty minutes and got Macari's message in the closing stages, when they reverted to attack and only a marvelous save by Edwards prevented them taking all three points.

Macari was happy enough afterwards. "People call this pressure, but I can tell you it's a lot worse when you are down the bottom of the table," he said.

Tension was apparent on the terraces, where police had to separate rival supporters in the first half, as well as on the pitch, where Francis and Ware were cautioned and several others were lucky to escape bookings in a game where chances were few and far between, although Stein was twice denied by Edwards.

Stockport, whose one clear opening was blazed over the bar by Beaumont on the stroke of half-time, are still warm favourites to reach the play-offs but will be underdogs when they again take on Stoke in the Anfield Trophy final at Wembley on May 16.

**STOCKPORT COUNTY:** N Edwards, A J Corlett, J Curran, D Morris, D Potts, W Williams, J Gannon, P Ward, A Francis, C Beaman, M Lowrie (sub: A D Kavanagh, I Blaikie, L Sandford, J Wright, C Beaton, M Stain, W Blaggins, P Ward). Referee: J Watson.

## Burnley return to top

Mansfield are the only club who can catch the three leaders. Barnes' ambitions were restricted to the play-offs by their defeat at Cardiff.

Torquay's defeat at Chester means they are almost certain to be relegated from the third division along with Darlington.

At the other end of the table, Portsmouth did their hopes of a play-off place no harm at all with a hard-fought 1-0 home defeat of Bristol City.

## BOXING

## Change of opponent for Eubank

CHRIS Eubank will defend the WBO super-middleweight title against a third-choice opponent — John Jarvis — at Manchester's G-Mex Centre on Saturday. Jarvis, ranked seventh by the WBO, replaces a fellow-American, Ron Essett, who has an ear infection. Eubank's original opponent, Juan Carlos Giménez, pulled out with a hand injury.

Jarvis, in training for another fight, said: "My weight is perfect and I couldn't be fitter. This is the chance I have been waiting for."

Mickey Duff, Frank Bruno's promoter, is to ask the British Boxing Board of Control to appoint two judges for Bruno's bout with Jose Ribeiro at Wembley Arena tomorrow.

**Plymouth closer to survival**

By PETER ROBINSON

WHILE Newcastle United were pressing the self-destruct button at the Baseball Ground yesterday, Plymouth Argyle climbed out of the relegation mire at the foot of the second division. In a meeting of two of the teams most under threat of slipping down, Plymouth overcame Oxford United at Home Park 3-1 to move to four places off the bottom, though they are not safe yet.

They began brightly. Morrison, a central defender, scoring his first goal for the club after 16 minutes. Although Bannister equalised in the 25th minute, Marker, the Plymouth captain, restored the lead and Lee extended it six minutes after the interval. Like Newcastle, Oxford hardly helped their cause when Magilton, their midfield creator and inspiration, was sent off in the first half for dissent.

There was no similar revival for Brighton, the bottom club, for whom visits to Hartlepool, Wigan and Exeter in the third division beckon ever more strongly next season. A 4-1 defeat at Bristol Rovers weakened their hopes of escape considerably yesterday.

Taylor, the forward signed recently from Cambridge United, was the architect of Brighton's downfall, scoring three goals to bring his total to seven in six games since his move to Tiverton Park. After Pounder had given Rovers the lead, Taylor found the target after 44, 53 and 75 minutes with Gall's effort for Brighton providing only the scantest of consolation.

At the other end of the table, Portsmouth did their hopes of a play-off place no harm at all with a hard-fought 1-0 home defeat of Bristol City.

To add injury to insult, Ferreira was hampered by a

sore leg in the first set and, at one point, seriously considered retirement, which would have been a bigger embarrassment than the final result. "I've had the injury a long time and it is very irritating, but it got better as the match went on," Ferreira said.

The South African, though, was glad to fulfil his dream of playing Borg, even if the reputation proved more vivid than the reality. "It was a privilege to play him, something I will always cherish," he said, roughly the lines used by Jordi Arrese, Borg's conqueror here 12 months ago.

Borg refused to be downcast by defeat and was not impressed by Ferreira's limp either. "If he was injured, it was not very much," he said. "I feel my own game is getting a bit better each time. This was just the sort of the match I needed."

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# THE TIMES SPORT

TUESDAY APRIL 21 1992

Manchester United's failure allows Wilkinson's team to regain leadership

## Leeds revitalise League challenge

Leeds United ..... 2  
 Coventry City ..... 0

BY IAN ROSS

THE prospect of Leeds United returning the League championship to West Yorkshire for the first time in 18 years — a rather fanciful prospect in recent weeks — was given far greater substance yesterday.

Fifteen minutes after learning of Manchester United's defeat by Nottingham Forest at Old Trafford, Leeds produced a solid, if unspectacular performance to defeat Coventry City, but for once it was the result, and not its manner, which was of such immense importance.

While this victory was sufficient to return Leeds to the top of the first division, it will have done little or nothing to alter Howard Wilkinson's assessment that one of the most intriguing championship races in memory will remain unresolved until the final day of the season.

Manchester United, who trail Leeds by a single point, must win against West Ham United at Upton Park tomorrow night if they are to reclaim the leadership and, more important, the initiative.

Rather sensibly, Leeds played out the opening 15 minutes at pedestrian pace. Once the pattern of their pressure punctuated by spirit, if somewhat rare, Coventry counter-attacks had been established, a surprisingly fluent game began to unfold.

After a succession of promising assaults had come to grief on the perimeter of the Coventry penalty area, McAllister and Wallace attempted to engineer a decisive opening by utilising



Wright to reply: the Arsenal forward bundles the ball past Hooper in his side's 4-0 win over Liverpool yesterday. Report, page 32

brute force, driving in firm shots which were only fractionally wide of their intended target.

Wallace, whose form has been, at best, erratic since the turn of the year, was to enjoy the best opportunity of the first half when Batty's deflected pass drifted over the Coventry defence in the 32nd minute.

Unfortunately, as Wallace attempted to apply a finishing touch, the ball became lodged beneath his right boot and he was unable to control before a defender intervened.

Although the Leeds goal had been subjected to only minimal pressure, Coventry were a little unfortunate not to take advantage of a defensive blunder shortly after the interval when Whyte and Lukic collided as they sought to intercept a pass which had been lofted from deep within the Coventry half.

Gallagher, who collected the rebound, was not really in a position to shoot but with no support available to him, he had no alternative. The ball, to Leeds' relief, cannoned into the chest of Whyte and cleared.

Whyte was to make a more orthodox and important contribution in the 53rd minute when he applied the crucial touch in the move which was, in effect, to decide the outcome.

Gallagher, who followed up after Ogrizovic dived down to his left to deny Speed, swept in a low shot which struck McGrath, standing on the goal-line, blocked with an outstretched hand. After consulting a linesman, the referee, Robert Nixon, awarded a penalty, which McAllister duly converted, and dismissed the Coventry captain for his action.

**LEEDS UNITED:** J Luke, C McAllister, G Speed, G Strachan, R Wallace, L Chapman, G McAllister, G Speed, C O'Brien, G Ogrizovic, B Bonham, K Souter, S Robson, A Perez, P Atherton, S Flynn, M Gynn, P Furlong, K Gallagher, R Nixon. **COVENTRY CITY:** J Luke, C McAllister, G Speed, G Strachan, R Wallace, L Chapman, G McAllister, G Speed, C O'Brien, G Ogrizovic, B Bonham, K Souter, S Robson, A Perez, P Atherton, S Flynn, M Gynn, P Furlong, K Gallagher, R Nixon.

**Referee:** R Nixon.

### Three are sent off

NEWCASTLE United took a huge step towards relegation to the third division yesterday (Peter Robinson writes). They inexplicably threw away any chance against Derby County with one of the most controversial, ill-disciplined displays in the League this season.

Newcastle had three players sent off by the referee, Brian Coddington, and their coach, Terry McDermott, dismissed from the touchline at the Baseball Ground. They lost 4-1 and fell to one of the three relegation places.

Their troubles began with

in three minutes of a kick-off delayed for 15 minutes by a bomb scare. Kevin Brock appeared to handle a header on the goal-line and was ordered off. Brian Kilcline was booked in the sixth minute before McDermott, after making remarks to a linesman, was dismissed.

Kevin Scott, the Newcastle captain, was next for a second bookable offence and Liam O'Brien joined the party in the 71st minute for dissent. His dismissal prompted an outbreak of trouble among Newcastle supporters.

Their troubles began with

## Body blow to United's hopes

Manchester United ..... 1  
 Nottingham Forest ..... 2

BY STUART JONES  
 FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IN FRONT of the biggest League gate of the season, the title contenders were yesterday revealed to be impostors. Against a hot-potch of a side featuring Nigel Clough as a central defender, Manchester United subsided to the second ignominious home defeat of their campaign.

The experience may not have been as humbling as on New Year's day, when they lost 4-1 to Queens Park Rangers, but the impact promises to be more significant. The next time they appear at Old Trafford will be on the closing, and potentially decisive, day.

Alex Ferguson has persistently claimed that the title will be won away from the bumpy and rutted pitch on which United's rhythm has invariably been disrupted.

Yet, to be crowned as champions, they will probably have to triumph there over Tottenham Hotspur.

The occasion was supposed to have been an appropriate one for the club to celebrate the end of United's empty quarter of a century, as well as the farewell appearance of Gary Lineker. The fixture, which is scheduled for May 2, but may be postponed 24 hours for the benefit of television, promises to create as tense a finale as at Anfield three years ago.

The frayed nerves of United's followers were stretched further when Nottingham Forest, resembling an experimental outfit, took the lead in the 32nd minute.

Nobody harried either Sheringham near a touchline nor Woan, when he accepted a return pass. He cut inside a token gesture of a tackle by Kanchelskis and struck a shot from the edge of the area, which Schmeichel allowed to run underneath his outstretched left arm.

Alex Ferguson has persistently claimed that the title will be won away from the bumpy and rutted pitch on which United's rhythm has invariably been disrupted.

Bob Wilson, P. Schmeichel, G. Blackmore, D. Irwin, S. Bruce, M. Phelan, G. Armstrong, A. Ferguson, N. Webb, G. Hughes, B. McLean, P. Giggs, L. Sharpe (sub: M. Donnelly).

**NOTTINGHAM FOREST:** M. Sheringham, I. Woan, G. Kanchelskis, T. Oryszak, S. General, N. Clough, E. Sheringham, I. Woan.

**Referee:** J. Key.

again until midway through the second half. Then the goalkeeper, overlooked for the Rumbelows Cup final, defied McClair with an acrobatic save which brought the crowd of 47,576 to its feet.

Soon many of them sank disconsolately back into their seats. A quick free kick taken by Keane caught United unawares. Sheringham's dummy cleared a convenient central path for Gemmill who promptly steered in the winner.

Forest, for whom Walker put on a flawless exhibition of defending, kept their composure even after Hughes had been brought on.

Tomorrow United play at West Ham, whose spirit may have been broken, and on Sunday they tackle Liverpool at Anfield.

**MANCHESTER UNITED:** P. Schmeichel, G. Blackmore, D. Irwin, S. Bruce, M. Phelan, G. Armstrong, A. Ferguson, N. Webb, G. Hughes, B. McLean, P. Giggs, L. Sharpe (sub: M. Donnelly).

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**Referee:** J. Key.

**Remaining fixtures**

**LEEDS UNITED:** Sunday: Sheffield (a).

**MANCHESTER CITY:** Tomorrow: West Ham (a); Sunday: Liverpool (a); May 2: Tottenham (h).

**SHEFFIELD:** Wednesday: Crystal Palace (a); May 2: Liverpool (h).

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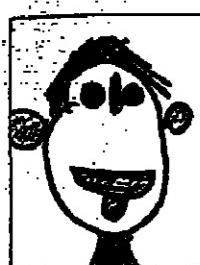
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PARENTS  
What can you  
tell from  
your child's  
drawings?



# LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY APRIL 21 1992

SL

MEDIA  
Why taking  
the tabloids is  
good for  
democracy



## Please adjust your set of values

**David Plowright**, the former chairman of Granada TV, argues that quality television and hard-nosed economics can mix, if the ingredients are right

**O**nce again politicians have shown that their interest in television is at its height during an election. While most people regard it as something to watch, most politicians think of it as something to appear on. Its power of persuasion suspends criticism of its costs, its levels of staffing, efficiency and structure. For the brief period of the campaign it is judged on its performance as an instrument of propaganda.

Naturally, television does not escape criticism from the party that loses. The winners are more charitable, so perhaps it is timely to try to persuade them of the need to correct a recent and deeply flawed piece of broadcasting legislation which is putting the industry at grave and unnecessary risk. The Broadcasting Act of 1990 is without friends even among those who conceived it, and while broadcasting does not rate as highly on the political agenda as the recession, taxation or the health service, it is a public service under threat and deserving of some debate.

The legitimate questions to explore are: what amounts of revenue from independent television companies should go to the government for access to the comparatively scarce resource of a broadcasting frequency; what amounts should be spent on a programme service that meets the requirement of programmes of range, quality and diversity, is predominantly British and regionally structured; how the interests of shareholders are reconciled with the other imperatives; and how does the BBC retain its position as the senior and most respected service in the world?

In the next few years, the greatest threat to broadcasting standards will be the limited finance available for British programme making. Money alone does not ensure quality, but it certainly helps. Add in the ingredients of creative flair, experience, commitment and a willingness to take risks and you have a formula that goes a long way towards creating a service of quality.

The economics of broadcasting have tended to dominate media debates since the Conservative government chose to deliver television to the market place. There is an understandable tendency to try to simplify the situation by presenting a picture of an industry divided into two camps — on the one hand hard-eyed businessmen more interested in balance sheets than creative achievement, and on the other dedicated producers committed to quality programming but guilty of wanton extravagance.

Like most stereotypes, this is wide of the mark and obscures rather than clarifies the underlying issues. There is much more at stake than personality clashes. It is closer to the truth to say that most of those involved in the management of

commercial television share the same objectives of delivering a decent service to viewers while making a reasonable profit for shareholders. Such arguments as there are focus on finding the right balance to meet these aims.

This is a problem of concern to broadcasting as a whole. Nobody, even the most eagle-eyed accountant, sets out with the deliberate intention of making television programmes of unacceptable quality. If they did so, they would soon prove to be a liability to their company, and their business judgement would be questioned.

Similarly, those who earn their living by making programmes are not incorrigible spendthrifts. Production finance is hard to come by these days and those who manage to lay their hands on some want to make it stretch as far as possible. The legitimate question to explore is how far it can be stretched before the programmes suffer.

As someone with a good deal of practical experience of television operations, I have never seen any natural link between quality programming and lax management, light-touch accountancy or self-indulgent production methods. Granada always had a reputation

for being a tightly run ship, as many programme makers will testify. That is how Granada succeeded in combining good-quality production over the years with industry leadership in profitability, and to emerge after more than three decades as the sole survivor from the original round of ITV franchises.

I have no doubt my colleagues in Granada will continue to strive for the highest standards, because it is their instinct to do so and it makes sound business sense.



Grand Granada: (clockwise from above) Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes; the documentary 28 Up; and Helen Mirren in Prime Suspect

agenda — as it is again today. That is why as many as 15 separate broadcasting companies were brought into existence to cover a territory as comparatively small as the United Kingdom.

A normal business would have thought in terms of a far more conservative approach of branch offices, not the autonomous regional headquarters which were established and became strong manifestations of the government's devolutionary policy.

Similarly, the legislation virtually ruled out competition. Once a company had won a franchise, it earned the exclusive right to such television advertising revenue as was available in its area. Because the service was paid for by advertisers, not by the public, ITV could rely for most of its life on the same sort of shelter from market-place economics that the BBC had available to it via the licence fee, provided it fulfilled strict public service programme responsibilities. All of this added to the sense of isolation from the real world.

Such a system could clearly not

have an indefinite life. For one thing its sheer costliness was annoying to those who did not have a place within it. But there is no escaping the fact that it worked well for a remarkably long time. From the early 1950s to the late 1980s, Britain had a television service which, although not perfect, was acknowledged as a great deal better than most others in the world.

To ward against the dangers of complacency there was a requirement every ten years or so for companies to compete publicly for the renewal of their licences — and quite a number of them lost. A firm

Continued on page 6, col 1

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TOMORROW  
John Mortimer on advocacy

have lived through it.  
My son does seem able to retain some feelings of prudence in the face of this madness. "I don't like you to be spending all this money," he says, and means it. I don't like it either. The treats, I tell myself, are modest, the shoes essential. If I can't take my boy out for a day in his holidays and give him his idea of a good time, I tell myself, there is not much to be said for working at all.

I tell myself that I am doing nothing more than my own parents did for me when I was nine, though we travelled by bus when we went to see *The Pyjama Game*, ate our lunch in the Odeon Cafeteria and dreamt not of bowling alleys and foot-high cartons of popcorn. None of these admonitions and reassurances from self to self provides much comfort. It still feels like a hell of a lot of money demanded by an insanely extortionate world; but that, I guess, is how it must feel to be middle-aged.

TOMORROW  
Single Life: Lynne Truss

## Change, and its effect on the pocket

MID LIFE: Neil Lyndon on the declining value of money



**M**oney has been much on my mind this week. If you are in any doubt whether you should consider yourself middle-aged, take a sure rule from me. You may know with categorical certainty that you have descended to your place among the crustaceans of midlife when you catch yourself saying "Thirty years ago, a man would have had to work for a month to pay for that". It has been that kind of week.

A youth from the village has taken to coming to this house at the weekend to clean my car. He charges £3 for the wash and 50p to muck out the interior — a job from which Hercules himself would have shrank after my son and his mates have been in the car for an hour with their gums, chocolates, crisps, drinks, toys and viles delight in foul air. I give him the work on the same principle that I always give tit to hitch-hikers if they have got enough brains to place themselves in a spot on the roadside where I can safely stop. The principle is that, having been in that spot myself, I will always give a hand to those I find

there today. When I was 17, I spent Saturday mornings making a grimy mess of the wings and panels of Morris Minor, Vauxhall Crestas and Singer Gazelles for five shillings a time.

After my youthful double had finished the job last weekend, he explained that he would want to come, in future, on Sunday mornings. On Saturdays, he is going to be working in Woolworth in the local market town. I was beside myself with pleasure: my doppelganger had come to life. "My first holiday job was in Woolworth," I exclaimed. I thought I detected a minimal rolling of his eyes as he saw another hoar-laden anecdote approaching.

"I was 15," I said. "When the manager gave me the job, he said the pay would be £5 for a five and a half day week and I gasped aloud. 'Yes,' he said sternly, 'it's a lot of money, isn't it; and you'll have to

work bloody hard to earn it.' "Five pounds a week," said the youth, obligingly. "Good heavens! I thought my pay was bad and they're paying me £2.75 an hour."

He went off whistling with his bucket and my money. I retired to the kitchen to scratch my puzzled old head over a cup of coffee.

If he worked, as I did, a 55-hour week at Woolworth and they paid him £2.75 an hour, he would earn £151.25. That's 30 times the amount I was paid in 1961. Is this a true reflection of inflation and the decline in the value of money in the period? Or is a better guide to be drawn from the difference between the amounts we earned for car-washing? His £3 12 times my charge for the same job (I didn't offer an interior service; too much like hard work).

It seems possible, though I'd be grateful if we kept this to ourselves, that he is undercharging. Another possibility, far more comforting, is that I was overcharging for my services. His hourly rate at Woolworth is slightly unflavourable compared with the £3.50 he can earn in about three-quarters of an hour on

my car. My hourly rate at Woolworth was one shilling and nine old pence. By that measure, dear old Mrs Harnden should have been paying me, at most, two and six for the smears I left on the bonnet of her Morris Minor, and if she is still in this world to read these words, I imagine that she will be feeling rightly, that she was skinned.

These calculations and comparisons may be head-spinning, confirming the uneasy feeling that we have been living through a Rubrianian era of tinpot finance, but they include some degrees of measurable reality. If you want to lose all feeling for the value of money, try spending a week with a nine-year-old.

On a single day's excursion with my son last week we got through more than £70. In the morning, we

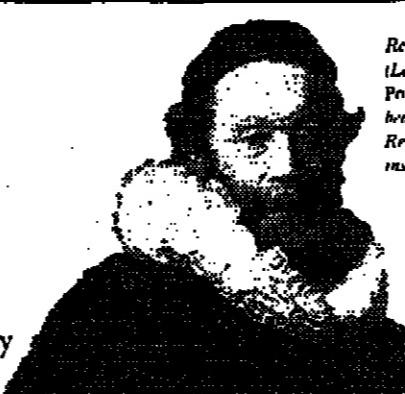
went bowling: three games, £13.20.

We went for lunch in a fast-food dive: two small pizzas, two large soft drinks and a single serving of garlic bread, £15.25. We bought a pair of trainers, nothing flash: £24.99. We went to see *Hook* £6 for the tickets and £2.50 for drinks and popcorn. Add parking, petrol, crisps and drinks at the bowling alley, sweets along the road and you've topped £70.

Thirty years ago, a labouring man would have to work for a month to earn £70. I would have had to work for three and a half months in my holiday job at Woolworth. My young doppelganger would earn that amount in half a week. Even allowing for the effects of decimalisation and the Wilsonian deception of a depreciation which would make no difference to the pound in our purse, this colossal inflation must still be counted bewildering for those who

8th July, 1992  
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Johannes Uyttenbogaert

— when his portrait by Rembrandt will be sold by Sotheby's in London. Painted in 1633, it is an exceptionally fine example of Rembrandt's work — the modelling of the face and the contours of the white collar are wholly characteristic of the artist's style in the early 1630s — and its authenticity has been confirmed by the Rembrandt Research Project.



Rembrandt Harmensz van Rijn  
(Leiden 1606-1669 Amsterdam).  
Portrait of Johannes Uyttenbogaert,  
bears signature and date:  
Rembrandt f. 1633 and bears  
inscription: AET: 26, oil on canvas.

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS SALE: 1st MAY  
This Rembrandt portrait is one of the highlights of our sale of Old Master Paintings on 8th July that will feature many fine works, ranging from portraits to still lives and landscapes. To include your pictures with Johannes Uyttenbogaert, please contact Julien Stock on 071-408 5413 as soon as possible.

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# Spain's reign was not so plain

LITERATURE

Mexico's premier writer, Carlos Fuentes, is a uniquely well informed guide to the consequences of Spanish empire-building in the Americas. He talks to Harry Eyres

**W**hen Carlos Fuentes said: "There are some writers who are wonderful to read but not much fun to have lunch with," he was referring to the great Spanish poet Luis Cernuda, whom like virtually every major literary figure of the mid-20th century onwards, Fuentes knew or knows personally. The second half of his statement is not applicable to himself.

Over lunch in a Bloomsbury restaurant, the 63-year-old, dapper Mexican novelist and man of letters produced a marvellously rich flow of table talk: erudite, wide-ranging, capable of startling connections: Manganeta's *Dead Christ* in the Brixton reminds him of Che Guevara. His intellectual energy appears boundless. The name Fuentes, springs or fountains in Spanish, could hardly be more apt.

He was here to launch a book and a television series (BBC 2, tomorrow night), entitled *The Buried Mirror*, which explores the special cultural relationship between Spain and the New World. In the Spanish-speaking world, the debate about the quincentenary of Columbus's discovery of the Americas has been polarised between rancoorous regret and the sort of imperialist triumphalism once associated with General Franco.

The most extreme case of the former has been a Peruvian claim for Spain to repay the gold of the Incas and the silver gouged out of the mines of Potosí. There is also growing intolerance in Spain against South Americans, which Fuentes apprehensively links with the rise of neo-fascist xenophobia throughout Europe. He deplores

both tendencies. "The point is not self-castigation or celebration but a chance to reflect on what we have achieved in 500 years — descendants of Spaniards, Incas, Aztecs, black Africans."

Fuentes obviously delights in the incorrigible promiscuity of his own Mexican culture, in which elements of Aztec, Toltec and Mayan civilisation have been subtly fused with the great legacy of European, Roman and native Hispanic civilisation brought by the Conquistadors. "I don't believe in pure cultures. We are all mongrels, we are what we are because of invasions: in our case Conquistadors, in yours Romans and Normans."

**'I don't believe in pure cultures. We are all mongrels, we are what we are because of invasions'**

Fuentes is particularly well placed to interpret this process to English-speaking Americans and the English. Coming from a country which is a kind of hinge between North and South America, he seems as happy speaking and writing English as Spanish: he was brought up partly in Washington DC (also in Buenos Aires and Santiago de Chile) and as well as

serving as a diplomat in Paris he has taught in a string of North American universities.

A surprisingly large proportion of *The Buried Mirror*, however, is devoted to the culture of Spain, the Mother-country or, as Cernuda called her, *la madrastra*, the unloving stepmother (territory) treated fictionally in Fuentes's vast, labyrinthine novel about the time of Philip II, *Terra Nostra*. Fuentes is engaged in cultural reclamation, seeking out the neglected richness and value of Spanish civilisation, which has too often been written off as violent and destructive.

"I don't believe in the Leyenda Negra, the black legend of Spanish cruelty. It's a form of self-denial." Fuentes reminds us of Spain's singular ability to question the justness of its own acts of colonisation, the contributions of the Dominicans such as Father Montesinos who cried out in his sermon before Christmas 1511. "Are these not men? Have they not rational souls?" Later the Jesuit Father Victoria, a founder of the modern concept of human rights, told the Pope he had no right to occupy Indian lands, but only to establish missions.

Even the optimistic Fuentes, however, is not disposed to deny that behind the noble ideals of the Spanish Law of the Indies, the reality of colonisation was "hast and often inefficient exploitation of land and labour by local bosses". The nemesis of Spanish civilisation both at home and in America was the non-emergence of a strong civil society and the political institutions, culminating in democracy, to safeguard it. Even when the Latin



Carlos Fuentes: his latest book (also a BBC 2 series) explores the cultural and other legacies of Spain's American empire-building

American countries, almost in union, threw off the Spanish yoke in the 1810s, the French-inspired revolutionary ideals of Bolívar remained abstractions.

Fuentes has some optimism about Mexico, despite the economic crisis throughout Latin America, which has meant growing poverty for a decade. "The key is the development of civil society and

everywhere I see people organising themselves. When there was a terrible earthquake in Mexico in 1985 civil society acted much more quickly and effectively than the government."

Fuentes can hardly restrain his glee about the creeping Hispanisation of the United States (a theme adumbrated in *The Old Gringo*, his novel about the disappearance

of the American journalist Ambrose Bierce in Mexico). "By some projections more than half the population of the USA will be Spanish-speaking by 2050. And the state of California has just declared that its language is English, which obviously proves the opposite."

But Fuentes is motivated less by cultural vengefulness than by a

generous delight in the ever-richer possibilities offered by linguistic and cultural multiplicity. He says: "You can already see bumper stickers on cars in Texas which say 'Mono-lingualism is a curable disease'."

● *The Buried Mirror*, a five-part series, begins on BBC 2 tomorrow night at 8pm. The book of the same name is published this week by Denton.

## THEATRE

## One text, two languages and a common purpose

**J**eremy Kingston previews an Anglo-Portuguese stage production coming to London from Lisbon this week

shortened text was translated and after a workshop last summer, *Os Mistérios de Chester* was born.

**J**osé Ananias, who plays an urgent, red-shirted Jesus, said, through an interpreter: "In Portugal, we are accustomed to working slowly. We sit at a table for a long time. The behaviour of the English actors is very focused, as if tomorrow is the opening day. Also, Portuguese directors tend to impose their ideas upon the actors. But Mark expects the actors to give out ideas, to know already what the character is." Dornford-May growled: "I can always make them change to what I want, later."

He and the unknown author of the Chester cycle have constructed between them a model of the universe in which God's mildly liberal attempts to improve existence regularly go amuck and must be paid for by killing something.

Medieval audiences did not receive theological subtleties

and this throws the interest upon Dornford-May's ideas for animating simple conflicts. Understandably, his most successful solutions are visual.

When Michael Thomas's soberly trusht God creates the angelic orders, nine angels in flared coats encircle the heavenly throne; the rope that links them is tugged away by the ambitious Lucifer until they tumble into a heap. The creation of the naked Adam and Eve is gracefully imagined; and Ana Bustorff's intense Mary encounters Gabriel not during her devotions, but while turning hay.

Everyday details add joyous spectacles effects. Strong lighting from the front corners of the stage throw menacing shadows against the rear wall. Herod's soldiers stab at the snatched babes until a red powder bursts out. And whenever an evil councillor is required, Gordon Anderson's lizard-tipped Lucifer slithers into another character and God's plan goes wrong again.

The bilingual approach brings an unexpected gloss by reminding us that Christianity was designer-planned to speak to all nations. At the Mermaid, *Os Mistérios* become *The Mystery Plays* once more and, though there are no orange trees fruiting in Blackfriars, audiences should still find food for thought.

● *The Mystery Plays, at the Mermaid, Puddle Dock, London EC4 1071-410 0000* from tomorrow.

Opera has occasionally been performed in two languages, plays very rarely; yet the risky mixture works remarkably well, helped by director Mark Dornford-May's even-handed distribution of roles. One half of the double acts of Cain and Abel, Anna and Caiphas, speaks the language we know, enabling us to work out what the other half is about. The shepherds and the kings, Herod's soldiers and Noah's sons, also mix languages. The only scene that lost my attention was the Last Supper, inevitably short on movement and largely in Portuguese.

The seed of this unique co-production was planted when David Westhead, an actor now with the RSC in Stratford, heard that the Gulbenkian had sponsored a production by the 7:84 Company in Scotland. Much of his childhood was spent in Portugal and he thought, "If them, why not me? Why not a British tour to Portugal?"

Dornford-May had taught Westhead at Rada and suggested that the familiar story of the Mystery Plays might overcome the language difficulty. One of the Gulbenkian's trustees, Dr Pedro Tamen, came up with the idea of a bilingual production. Dornford-May's



Murderous monarch: Herod (Adam Blackwood) attacks a nursemaid (Nicola King) in the Chester Mystery Plays

## RADIO REVIEW

## Hear they come again

**R**adio Review

"Vissi d'arte", from *Tosca* — the singers' equivalent of "To be or not to be".

Maria Callas, they all said, gave the definitive "Vissi d'arte", and on hearing half a dozen versions in the glorious half-hour, who would argue? Directors, however, do not agree about a definitive staging, and one diva described how she has sung the aria (which Tosca delivers having betrayed her lover and been raped by his enemy) leaning against a table, on her knees and even face down, none of which afford a singer the best use of her diaphragm.

Apart from *Record Review*, the World Service programme

in which a critic compares different recordings of the same piece, this was among the best exercises in opera dissection I can recall. This it was with new confidence and a returned ear that I settled down to *Carmen* in Claire Grove's production for Radio 4, on Easter Saturday night. At least I could sing along to this one, but wait — where was the music? And where, even on radio, were the fancy uniforms and flailing frills?

Perverse, I call it. We all know *Carmen* is an opera — or rather we all know *Carmen* as an opera, but in this two-part classic serial we have a rare

chance to hear Prosper Mérimée's original prose story, astutely transposed by Stephen Jeffreys from the 19th century to 1936, with Spain in the grip of civil war and Carmen (Adjoa Andoh) as a gypsy who will survive whether it means lifting her skin for Franco's officers or flogging ammunition to the communists, José (Iain Glen), meanwhile, a Basque with a Scottish accent who is so besotted by Carmen that at the end of episode one he wouldn't know her aria from a *Bolero*.

I thought I was going to enjoy *The Legend of Robin Hood* (Radio 4, Saturday),

more than I did. It seems like only a fortnight ago that the director, Nigel Bryant, was galloping us from Norman England, over to the Crusades and back in time for tilting.

In fact it was only a fortnight ago, in a better-by-far piece called *Assassins*, the little-known tale of what became of Thomas à Becket's murderers. This tale is all-too well known, and while John Fletcher's script rattled on lyrically about the greenwood, the wicked Sheriff and the merry men of Sherwood, there was nothing John Nettles could do with the title role to prevent us getting to the punchlines before him.

"Who's this giant coming across the bridge, Tuck?" It's Little John, you idiot, and he's going to dump you in the river. Even Kevin Costner knows that.

PATRICK STODDART

## Moving confidently onto another stage

## DANCE IN OPERA

**C**horeographer Aletta Collins is co-directing Scottish Opera's new *Don Giovanni* with designer Tom Cairns. Nadine Meisner went to Glasgow to sit in on a still-unusual collaboration

**A**fter a hard day, Aletta Collins is viewing the world through extreme tiredness. Choreographing for opera, she says, is "mucky and horrible like wading through mud. You put the cassette on and there are singers belting it out. And you think, 'What on earth am I supposed to do in the middle of this?'

But for Scottish Opera's new production of *Don Giovanni* she evidently arrived at a point where the dances did take shape. Final stage rehearsals have been occupying Glasgow's Theatre Royal, where performances start tomorrow. The cast has been getting used to the set's tilted floor. Don Giovanni has been testing his seduction holds and Zerlina has been practising her screams with a few temporary giggles thrown in.

Collins is not only responsible for the opera's two set dances and the movement in general, but she is also co-director, with the designer Tom Cairns. The 25-year-old choreographer showed so much promise while still a student at London Contemporary Dance School that she was recommended to Steven Pimlott and Cairns when they urgently needed a choreographer for *Samson et Dalila* at the 1988 Bregenz Festival.

At that time she had never sat through a complete opera, and she found herself in charge of 20 Bulgarian ballerinas who spoke no English. Despite that, *Samson et Dalila* was a success; it was revived the next year and the production is to be seen in

the Netherlands this summer.

Since then, besides several straight dance pieces, she has choreographed one of the short films for BBC TV's forthcoming *Dance House* series and worked in five operas and one musical. All of these have been with Cairns, except for the large-scale *Carmen* at Earls Court.

She has been co-director in

her last three operas:

*King Priam* for Opera North and *The Flanders Opera*.

*La Bohème* for the Stuttgart Opera, and now *Don Giovanni*.

She obviously finds this more satisfying than slotting in her choreographic services.

Although this *Don Giovanni* is not a "concept" production — the opera will be free to speak for itself — a design-director-movement team clearly makes for a more homogeneous approach.

There has been no clear demarcation of responsibilities: Cairns has often directed movement, Collins has sometimes taken rehearsals. During the run-throughs Cairns's restless silhouette stands out in the auditorium, charging along a row of seats to check the stage picture from different angles. Or, with Collins he bounds on to the stage, the pair of them hovering round the cast like solicitous parents or Bulgarian puppets, adjusting limbs, pointing to destinations, or halting everything to demonstrate a walk or discuss motivation. Like dancers, opera singers "mark" their numbers; whispering their way through, so that early rehearsals

are concerned with the logistics of movement and drama.

With *Don Giovanni*, Collins has had her first experience of using non-professional

dancers, but only the singers,

20 chorus and eight soloists.

Instead of creating the steps

on them, using their bodies to

model the movement as she

normally would, she spent one

week in London choreographing

on two professional danc-

ers, arriving in Glasgow with

everything ready.

Because they don't come

from a dance background,

they are not interested,

for example, in moving their

hands ten different ways for

you to decide which you like,"

she explains. "They just want

you to tell them what to do and

then they'll work their socks off

to do it well. So I just started by

describing what this dance is

going to be."

"I said it's probably much

too hard, but I'm going to

teach it to you and the bits that

really are too hard, we'll

change. But they just did it

And wonderfully."

The chorus appreciated

her methods. "She

knew what she wanted

right from the beginning,"

says one of its members,

Stephen Hill. "Some choreo-

graphers use you to experiment

with. You want to start learn-

ing from the first day of

rehearsals, but you end up not

learning until the last two

days."

Where non-dancers have

difficulty is in

## Hard at work in the play lab

When most adults talk of "play", they mean something that is trifling, unimportant, of no consequence. "Just playing about," they say. "A cessation from work", says the dictionary. Yet to see children at play is to see real work in progress. Through play they learn about themselves how their bodies function — how high they can climb and how hard they can fall; what makes the world work physical principles that govern matter — how tall you can build a tower of bricks and when it will inevitably fall down; what it feels like to be a parent wheeling a baby doll in a pint-sized pram, or a carpenter or a short-order cook dishing out pretend burgers from a miniturised fast food bar.

Those whose own work is the care and study of children know that play is the work of children, the business by which they learn about life. Toys are the tools of that work and "tool making" or toy manufacture is very big business, a multi-billion dollar business worldwide.

Unlike other businesses, the purchasers are not the end-users. Children do the choosing and parents do the cheque-paying. So, toy manufacturers create their products for this double market, designing the boxes to appeal to the purchasing parent and the contents to engage the children.

Now that parents have been educated to know that playing is learning, toys must be educational, teaching something specific.

Many toys are now sold in packaging that specifies its educational value. An item may "encourage hand-eye co-ordination" or "stimulate auditory skills". In other words, if a child picks it up and shakes it, it will make a noise — it is, in fact, a rattle.

Out in East Aurora, not far down the road from downtown Buffalo, in upstate New York are the headquarters of Fisher-Price, international manufacturers of toys, since 1930. Last week I was invited to visit Fisher-Price's Play Laboratory, where they design and evaluate new products. Some of their toys are classics in play — the Chatter Telephone that rings when dialed, rolls its eyes and chatters when pulled along; the Little People Garage with crank-up elevator and parking carousel.

Each year some 30 per cent of the range is re-designed to keep up with changes in the massive toy market. Along the corridors at Fisher-Price teams of designers sketch and model new ideas, marketing men and design engineers assess how the new toys may be manufactured, packaged and promoted. Then they bring in the experts, the professional testers. Children.

In the Play Lab itself, groups of favoured children (the waiting list is more than 6,000 names long), surrounded by a treasure house of brilliantly coloured artefacts that snap together, wind up and pull along, light up, whistle, ring and roar, get on with the vital business of playing.

From behind a one-way mirror, unseen by the children, the design team observes them at play and gets on with its own work. Is the Bubble Mower the right height for the children for whom it is intended? Are the new Dino-Roars' three bright, whimsical dinos" in neon nylon in the right shades? How can



DAVINA LLOYD

the Fun Hydrant Sprinkler be adapted to differing international water pressures? The children play on in Aladdin's Cave. The toys that capture their attention will form the basis of the new range. The ones that they reject or abandon go back to the drawing board.

If you ask what makes a good toy, the answer you get will depend on whom you ask. For the design engineer it has to fulfil certain structural and safety requirements. New designs are bumped and bounced, wheels rotated and eyes pulled, toys squashed, stretched and twanged to terminal tolerances, far more ferocious than the crossest toddler in a tantrum.

From the marketing point of view, sizing, packaging and pricing are tested by the ultimate mothers' meetings in which "focus" groups of parents discuss the toys, themselves observed from behind the mirrors of marketing scrutiny.

Will they buy it, how much will they pay for it?

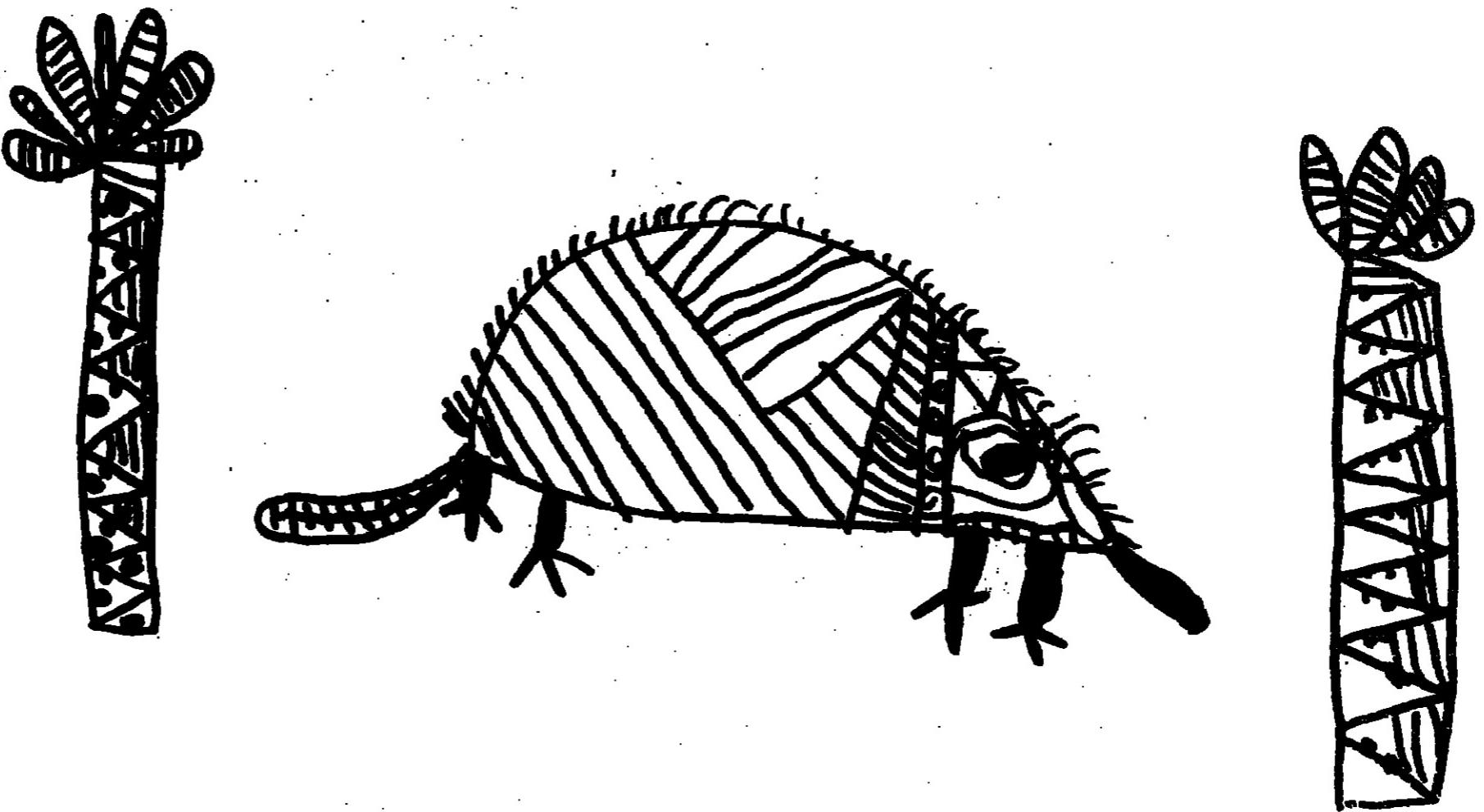
Even so, a notion of what makes children play with particular toys is elusive. Kathleen Alfano, who runs the Play Lab and is the manager of the child research department at Fisher-Price, offers some suggestions. "They are the way children experiment with the world," she says. "Toys are vessels for the imagination. Pre-schoolers need to be risky with their thinking. Play is wholesome, and toys bring out that quality."

Older ones want to replicate the wider world. They test out ancient games of mothers and fathers, doctors and nurses as well as newer ones that reflect the world they live in: Magic Scan Checkout Counter, Little People McDonald's Restaurant, complete with drive-through window, and gobbling cheeseburgers slide. The play goes on.

When the children's session finished, the group I had been observing left the Play Lab. Outside, the building was flanked by a border of large ornamental pebbles. The children gravitated towards the pebble bed and began to balance on the precarious arrangement. One six-year-old stood to collect "an interesting stone".

"I think it looks like a curled up worm," she said. Perhaps it is the children who are the vessels of imagination, rather than the toys. Their work of creatively evaluating the world continues whether they are being watched or not. Thinking back to the twin images of children at play inside the lab and the toy scientists observing their work, it is interesting to speculate what happens on each side of the observational mirror. Which side was working and which merely at play?

*Davina Lloyd is the editor of Parenting Plus magazine.*



Untitled by Daniel, aged five: some say it is dangerous to read too much into pictures; others, such as Claude Santoy, believe assessment of development is possible

## Pictures of confusion

If a child's pictures show men without hats or houses without windows, can you deduce that he is backward or disturbed?

**Victoria McKee looks at a controversy over art and analysis**

concerned parent and a therapist.

When drawings are a tool for analysis they are done with a child's knowledge of their purpose. Mrs Daws points out. It's not an invasion of privacy. And it's what the child says about their drawings that is important.

"The act of drawing is a therapeutic act in itself for the child — it's putting a shape on feelings, and does not need interpreting," she says. "In therapy the drawing is meant to be an act of communication. You ask the child to draw, succumbing to such a temptation, which they can lead to drawing dubious — and even dangerous — conclusions."

Of the above, choice (b) is the one they would unanimously recommend. Dilys Daws is the chair of the Child Psychotherapy Trust and a principal child psychotherapist at the family therapy centre at the Tavistock Clinic in London.

"Drawings are a tool used by most child psychotherapists," she confirms. "You can tell a lot about drawing age and development: a child who has difficulty putting ideas together when he's two also won't be able to draw a circle. You see a progression of the ability to conceptualise in drawings, as in thinking."

But, she says, as with other forms of development — some babies walk first and some talk first — there is a wide range of norms. "If your little boy is just drawing flowers you might think, 'has this boy got a lot of trouble owning his feelings?' since you would expect a little boy's drawings to have a lot of action or energy in them. Just as, if a girl's drawings are very violent it might be a girl enjoying the masculine part of herself."

Dr Dora Black, a consultant child psychiatrist at the Royal Free Hospital, in London, was a speaker at Radcliffe's spring conference.

She warns: "Graphology is a science, although as far as I'm aware there is no body of knowledge about children's writing because children are in the process of forming both their writing and their characters."

"In therapy the drawing is used as a means of communication. And she doesn't mention the recognisable tests that there are, such as the 'Goodenough draw a man' test, which is based on drawing a man's head and body.

"The author makes very categorial statements but never quotes the research evidence on which she bases that statement," Dr Black says, "and she sometimes makes contradictory statements: she says one child has a possible psychological fragility but is 'intelligent, perseverant, healthy and well-balanced'. Well, he can't be psychologically frail and well-balanced."

The author makes very distinct drawings stages. The sky and the earth don't join up, for example, until about the age of seven. That's a significant stage. And children always start with tadpole men — big bodies with stick hands and legs — and then progress to more details. It would be wrong to try to give exact ages or cause anxiety among parents, but gifted children usually reach these stages earlier. They may not be brilliant artists, but they can conceptualise things such as the earth and sky meeting."

But she does note that "there are very distinct drawing stages. The sky and the earth don't join up, for example, until about the age of seven. That's a significant stage. And children always start with tadpole men — big bodies with stick hands and legs — and then progress to more details. It would be wrong to try to give exact ages or cause anxiety among parents, but gifted children usually reach these stages earlier. They may not be brilliant artists, but they can conceptualise things such as the earth and sky meeting."

Dr Arnon Bentovim, a consultant child psychiatrist at the Great Ormond Street children's hospital, London, says that "being interested in your children's drawings is a good idea. Interpreting them is not. Certainly we encourage children to draw as a means of communicating. But a therapeutic role is not one for parents, and if their child was disturbed they should know without drawings or handwriting."

Mrs Daws concludes: "Creativity is all about expressing feelings through symbols. If you think of any great painting or poem or novel, underlying feelings are always being expressed. You do not always need to know what they are in order to appreciate the work of art."

Five-year-old gave a perfectly logical explanation: "My teacher said she wanted us to use dark colours so she could see them well," he said, "so I thought black was the darkest colour there was."

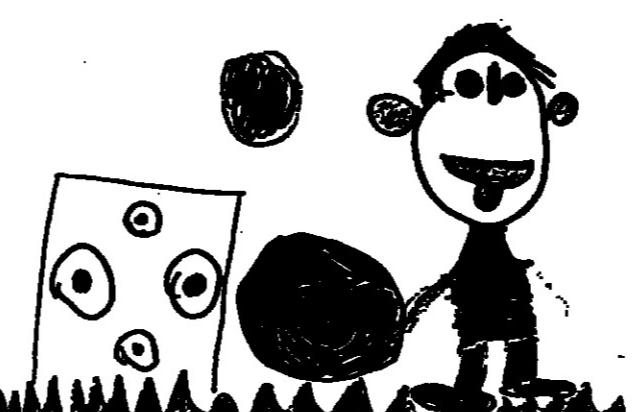
Dr Joan Freeman, a child psychologist specialising in the development of gifted children, uses drawings as a diagnostic aid. She differs with Dr Black's endorsement of the "Goodenough draw a man" test. "It was developed by Florence Goodenough in the pre-second world war period when men wore hats and jackets, and children got marks for how many details they included in the drawing — such as hats or the number of buttons on a jacket," she says. "As fashions change, a test such as this must change, and it would be different for different cultures."

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Drawn by a 'happy, healthy, well balanced' six-year-old?

A meeting this week will set out a proposal for Britain's first formal nanny register

## Should a nanny be struck off?

If you are booking a holiday or hiring a plumber, you have a choice about whether you protect yourself by going through a travel firm that belongs to ABTA or your plumber has initials after his name. No such security blanket exists when you employ a nanny.

This week a meeting will take place between the National Nursery Examination Board (NNEB), the Federation of Recruitment and Employment Services (FRES) and FRES's parliamentary advisor, Patrick Cormack MP, to discuss a proposal to be sent to the health minister, to set up Britain's first nanny register.

Christine Little, the director of FRES (which has 53 nanny agencies out of a total membership of 3,000) says: "There is clearly a need for some sort of record of who is suitable to care for other people's children. The childminders are registered, the social workers are going to be registered, we need to look into whether nannies should be on a register."

The issue of a register from which nannies with court convictions, or who are unsuitable for other reasons, can be struck off came to a head after the trial last November of Carol Withers, who was found guilty of inflicting grievous bodily harm on two babies. Ms Withers did the NNEB course but failed the final exams and went on to work as a nanny for several years. She fractured the skull of three-week-old Jade, the daughter of Anthony and

Erica Ferrari. (Jade has since recovered completely.) Erica Ferrari believes a nanny register could help screen out such people as Ms Withers.

Although Norland College, the nanny training college, has been pressing for a register for ten years, the NNEB has been reluctant to set up a formal register for its 125,000 certificated graduates (who complete a two-year nursery nurse course at colleges of further education). But growing concern from organisations such as the Working Mothers Association (WMA), as well as parents and the media is putting pressure on the NNEB and FRES to take action.

In June the WMA, a voluntary organisation representing parents and nannies, is holding talks on the subject of a register. Representatives from the health ministry, the NNEB, FRES, the Norland College and the Professional Association of Nursery Nurses (PANN), are being invited to attend.

The WMA, set up ten years ago, has its own childcare handbook and gives advice to its 2,000 working parent and corporate members. The director, Lucy Daniels, says: "For

too long everyone has thought that a nanny register would be a good thing but because it is complicated and controversial, it hasn't happened. Now I think there is a real need to address the problem, however tricky."

Louise Davis, the principal of Norland College and a member of the NNEB board, has campaigned for an NNEB register for years, but now she would like a register to include all nannies, trained or not. "Further legislation for childminders was included in the 1989 Children Act and the concept of a person's fitness to look after children did feature, which was progress. Unfortunately, childcare in the home was left out because it was considered a different and private matter.

"I think parents and the government have to consider professionalising childcare. They have to consider, for example, whether it is acceptable to leave an untrained, inexperienced teenager in charge of young children alone all day with no support while parents are out at work."

Despite the difficulties of legislating over care at home,

Mrs Davis feels that the skull of three-week-old Jade, the daughter of Anthony and

Erica Ferrari deserves its discussion. In the long term, Robert Chantrey-Price, the head of the NNEB, would like to see nannies having a statutory qualification and he believes that to work effectively a register would have to be statutory, too.

Mrs Davis emphasises that a register would benefit both nanny and parents: "I don't see it as an inspectorate, I see it as a way of giving a nanny support in what is often a quite difficult and lonely job."

S he says that Norland's own register, which has been operating for more than a century, works well. "The NNEB confers its diploma for life, we have always reserved the right to withdraw ours. In 12 years I have not done so, though I have issued warnings."

Significantly, in the WMA's health ministry funded report "Day Care in the Home", published in March, nearly half of the parents surveyed were wary about having a register. Doubts revolved around the feeling that its enforcement would be too difficult, that it would push up nanny wages and that it would be an infringement of privacy.

The June talks are intended to tackle the following questions: should the register be voluntary initially, then statutory? What would its powers be? Who would be on it — only nannies with a recognised qualification? Could untrained but experienced nannies join under separate sections? What information would the register contain? Would the register see that nannies were checked by the police for criminal records? (People with substantial access to children, such as teachers, social workers and childminders, are checked by the police.) Could the local authorities administer the police checks? Is it feasible for the police to add to their "checking" duties?

Further, the question would arise of who would have access to the register. Under what circumstances could a nanny be removed from the register, and for how long? And would there be a procedure whereby a nanny could appeal, as doctors are able to do?

Finally, could the health minister be persuaded to provide pump priming funds to set up the register? Once it is up and running, its proposers believe it could be kept funded by subscriptions from members and search fees from parents.

HILAIRE GOMER

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The Working Mothers' Association, 77 Holloway Road, London N7 8JZ. Tel: 071 700 5771. Open Mon-Wed 9am-1pm.



Model nannies: Norland College has put its weight behind the calls for regulation

Jon Stock civil war who lit

War bulletins, war

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what happens

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London, west London,

# Loyalties torn by distant conflict

**Jon Stock** reports on the effect of civil war on the Serbs and Croats who live together in London



War bulletins: watching Belgrade TV in a London hotel

Tatjana, a 19-year-old woman from Slovenia, is still shocked by what happened to her two weeks ago. Sitting in a tiny bedsit flat in Shepherds Bush, west London, she talks nervously. "I was singing at a local wine bar, just up the road from here. It is very popular with Serbians. Everyone was very drunk, and I was about to sing 'What A Wonderful World' by Louis Armstrong. Instead, I decided to sing a traditional Slovenian folk song first. They hated it. I thought they would spit at me. It was terrible. I didn't expect that. Afterwards I was desperate. If it wasn't for my friends, I don't know what I would have done."

When civil war broke out last summer between Slovenia and Serbia, and then spread to Croatia, thousands of young people fled their homes to avoid the fighting. Many of them are now living in Britain, either illegally or having sought refugee status from the Home Office.

Tatjana hitchhiked across the Continent to Britain last October with her Slovenian friend, Judita. They live together, sharing their flat with three others, among them a Serbian and a Macedonian.

London has had a large Serbian population since immediately after the second world war, during which King Peter II of Yugoslavia, a Serb, sought refuge in Britain. The Orthodox Serbian Church in Notting Hill estimates that there are 15,000 Serbs living in the capital. There are considerably fewer Croatians (800 according to the Croatian Catholic Mission). Until recently, they have lived side by side in relative harmony in London. However, as the fighting in Yugoslavia intensifies, particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where Serbs, Croats and Muslims are engaged in an increasingly bloody war, relations in London have become strained.

On election night in London the founder of the Croatian Society, Count Louis Doini de Lupis, invited a small group of

Croatians to his house off Launceston Place, London W8, to discuss the fighting in Bosnia. Many of his guests' home towns had been all but destroyed by relentless bombing.

"Last week we organised a charity concert for Croatia," the Count said. "There are many more Serbs living in London than Croats. We can only kill them culturally. We are never going to give up."

The assembled guests included academics, an estate agent, and Father Drago, a priest who runs the Croatian Catholic Mission in London.

One mature student, Gordana Baranovic from Sibenik, was close friends with a Serb living in London. They had known each other since 1975, when Mrs Baranovic arrived in Britain. They fell out after the Serbian army subjected Sibenik to a particularly heavy bombardment.

"My sister phoned me," Mrs Baranovic said. "I could hear her crying, her baby was screaming. My father was asking if he could come and sleep on my floor here in London. I saw pictures on the news of our damaged cathedral. I saw my town in the newspapers. My Serbian friend didn't ring me for a few days after that."

"Then one day she rang me and asked how I was. She upset me by saying that the Serbian army would sort out all the mess. What mess?" I said. "You started it. It's very sad. I used to go along to the Serbian church with her. Our relationship was very close. She now describes me as her ex-friend, an extremist."

While Mrs Baranovic was recounting her story, a group of Serbs was gathering around a television at the Hotel Ravana Gora, on Holland Park Avenue in London, watching Belgrade TV on satellite. Radomir Jovanic runs the hotel. "I have been living here for 20 years and I have met one Croat," he says. "She was a nice girl, but she wouldn't marry me because I am a Serb. In London, he was divided us even more."

Tatjana shakes her head



Armed truce: Serbian territorial soldiers during a UN-negotiated ceasefire in January. Amongst the emigré population in London, the battle-lines are still drawn, however

## 'We can only kill them culturally. We are never going to give up'

when she hears that such views are being openly expressed.

She points out that both Mrs Baranovic and Mr Jovanic have been living here for a long time, and are of a different generation.

"The Serbs who heckled her at the wine bar were older. For many young people escaping Yugoslavia, she explains, London is a place where they can live in peace together, a haven where they can regain their humanity."

He introduces me to Milan, a 20-year-old Serb who was living in Croatia. He was smuggled into Britain last October. "He was the most desperate man I have ever met," Tatjana says. "He had a lot of blood, and been asked to fight against friends. He was fighting against Slovenia, my country, but we are very close. We accept him here."

Last August, Milan was serving with the federal army, a predominantly Serbian force. He fought in a battle at Zagreb airport in Croatia, where his family still lives. After finishing his national service for the federal army, he was called up by the Croatian defence force. His mother rang him last week to say the Croatian police are looking for him. His name and photo are in the local press.

"I didn't know who to fight any more," Milan says. "I am a Serb, but many of my friends are Croatians. If I go back to Croatia, I will be sentenced to five years imprisonment. But I will probably be shot first by the people for not being there in a time of need."

Milan's friend, Zvonimir, is a deserter from the federal army, and lives in the same tiny bedsit. Five of them sit around, smoking when they can afford it and eating once a day. They have few possessions, and wear the same clothes every day. They are afraid to talk or have their photos taken.

Zvonimir is from Vojvodina, an autonomous part of Serbia. Before he was called up, he was training to be a journalist.

"I had a great life in Yugoslavia. I am 24. I had my own house, a car. I always had enough money, my town was wealthy. Now I am here, I have nothing."

He arrived in Britain last August and lived on the streets for three months. He worked casually, until finally applying

for refugee status from the Home Office. After six months, he will be given a work permit. In the meantime, his rent is paid for by housing benefit and he receives £28 a week. "London is the one city in all the world where you can find a job just by going from shop to shop and asking. You can't do that anywhere else," he says.

"In Germany, for example, they ask for papers. Here no

body asks you for anything."

Milan and Zvonimir both have many Croatian friends. Shepherds Bush and the surrounding area, traditionally popular with Serbs, is filling up with Yugoslavians of all ethnic origins. Once he was convinced that I was not from the Home Office, Milan agreed to take me to a basement flat in Hammersmith to meet Ivan (not his real name), a Croatian friend. Ivan came

to Britain in 1990 and is living with Vlado, a Bosnian Serb.

His visa has run out and he is

hoping that the Home Office

will let him stay.

Milan remains quiet, as

Vlado and Ivan joke about

killing each other. They say it

is the only way they can cope

with the war. Their rela-

tionship has, if anything, im-

proved since their respective

states started fighting each

other.

"But you have to be careful,"

Ivan says. "Before, when you

met anyone from Yugoslavia,

you were happy and hugged

them as a brother. Now you

have to shut up, you don't

know what they might do or

say. There are a lot of extrem-

ists in London now."

Last October, Croatia asked its citizens to return to defend their state. Ivan was tempted, but resisted. Now it is too late.

If he goes back, he will be shot as a deserter, perhaps even by his friends, he says. "I rang my mother to ask her," he says.

"She said 'If you come back, you will no longer be my son. You cannot stay at our house.'

She knew that I would be killed."

Milan returns to his flat, where we all sit around, listening to a tape of Tatjana singing "What A Wonderful World".

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## St George and the bull

In part of Russia  
England's patron saint  
inspires wild devotion



Party time: Vladikavkaz residents boil an animal for their feast

St George got around a bit. In life, according to the version reported by Metaphrases, he was a rather grand Cappadocian soldier under Diocletian during the third century; he visited England, organised Christianity in Armenia, declared his faith to his leader and was tortured and put to death.

Since then, his relics have performed miracles in France, the Orthodox Eastern Church and Islam both honour him, he has been patron of Genoa, Venice, Portugal, Aragon and Germany as well as of England, the protector of the Italian city of Ferrara and the avenger of women, a model of knighthood, a hero to the Crusaders. Calvin impugned his very existence.

In Vladikavkaz, the capital of North Ossetia, they disagree. North Ossetia is a tiny autonomous republic, population 643,000, near Georgia in the Russian Federation and according to Robert Chenciner, an ethnographer and a senior member of St Antony's College, Oxford, the North Ossetians are eccentric polytheist pagans whose favourite saint is St George. They call him Wasyrdzhya and instead of giving him a single feast day (as the English do on April 23), each November they celebrate him with a week of constant feasting.

Mr Chenciner was in Vladikavkaz for the festival of Wasyrdzhya last year. He stayed with the Dsusev family in a modern suburb. Among the tower-blocks was a single-storey building, built five years ago by public subscription, for holding feasts. Inside, three long tables were set and decorations were being hung for the celebrations.

Wasyrdzhya, Mr Chenciner says, is patron of men and of masculine activity, such as hunting and fighting. He is portrayed wearing a white burka (a hairy felt cloak with grotesquely wide shoulders) and riding on a three-legged white horse. Quite unlike his Western version, this

George is considered dangerous to women, but this is quite logical when you consider the local personage with whom he became combined.

In North Ossetia he merged with a fellow from the Iranian Nart Epic. The Narts were giants, and Wasyrdzhya had a great passion for one of the female Narts. She would not have him, but his passion was unabated and after her death he "visited" her in her grave, and fathered on her Satana, one of the great Nart heroines.

Mr Chenciner went to market with the Dsusevs to buy animals to sacrifice to Wasyrdzhya. "If a family isn't well off, they'll buy a ram, which costs about £10," he says. "If they're rich, they buy a bull, for about £100. The feast goes on for a week, and it's rather like Christmas — you prepare your feast for one of the days, and on the others you go to your friends and relatives. The women don't take part; they sit in the other room and get bored, and are brought a plate of food."

"There was a vast 300-litre pot on a welded steel trivet, bubbling away, with a

chopped up bull inside it. Next to it was a 50-litre vat with the intestines and choice innards. They kill the animal by tying it down by the horns and cutting its throat with a dagger, with singing and prayers for health, good fortune, and St George's help. They pray to the devil, too, just to make sure."

Mr Chenciner adds that it is very important when serving the meat to include the head. This is because of a terrible legend about some Nart prisoners who were served meat by their captors, and wanted to know what it was — it turned out, of course, to be boiled Nart. So hosts show the head so that guests know they are not being made into cannibals.

There is also a complicated ritual involving the right ear of the animal: it is cut off, cut in three vertically, then the three eldest men present balance a slice across a glass, which they raise in toast and pass to the three youngest, who pass back their glasses to the eldest. "Everyone drinks toasts, the gist of which is that the younger men should heed the elder, be wise in his head and strong in his neck, and then the younger men eat the slices of ear and knock back their drink," Mr Chenciner says. "I was the oldest, youngest. The ear was sweet and crunchy."

Sunday is the culmination of celebrations, and hundreds of people drive to a twelfth-century church of St George in Dzvigs for a blessing. Men and women queue up separately for blessings, and there is even male and female food: flat loaves with cheese inside are female, boiled meat on the bone is male.

At the church, Mr Chenciner noticed three modern pictures of St George on horseback, slaying the dragon. "There was a picture of Stalin, too," he says. "It's not much like Morris dancing, is it?"

LOUISA YOUNG  
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# Liberty with the tabloid touch

Britain's more colourful and raucous papers are good for free speech and democracy, says Jane Reed

I think it was at the recent European Press Assises, sitting in a room the size of a football pitch listening to Euro-worthies elevate journalism to the Elysian plane, that finally sickened me. Scribblers and hacks, union reps, entrepreneurs and company directors were all claiming proprietorial rights on freedom of speech.

This was an extraordinary scene of self-aggrandisement and double-speak. The journalists, seeking after freedom of speech — and any story that will keep the news editor off their backs for another day — were represented by their unions. The leader of the unions said, in an extraordinary leap of logic, that "freedom of speech goes hand in hand with deteriorating terms and conditions", thus claiming the high ground against the proprietors. Now we all know the proprietors are hot on the kind of freedom of speech — commercial and editorial — that leaves them free to sell as many papers as they can to as many people as possible.

What I was witnessing was the turning of a fundamentally good idea called journalism — let's inform and entertain the people — into a religious order with its own creed, freedom of speech, its own hierarchy of canons and prelates, its own warring factions of populism versus intellectual purity. And, inevitably, its own inquisitions.

"Are you, or were you ever, a tabloid journalist?" At the pearly gates of this new religion, Kelvin MacKenzie will have to answer to journalism's self-appointed inquisitors for his perceived sins. There will be no forgiveness. Tabloid journalism despairs the creed.

The speech we seek to keep free must be written only in the ways laid down by the established "church", using an approved lexicon. And it must be read only by those of a prescribed intellectual ability. This religious order would rather have a few right and like-minded followers than a burgeoning parish of pluralistic thinkers.

So just who are these high priests? What is their bill of indictment? And do they truly represent the lay millions who read The Word?

They are a mixture of church and state. The "church" is represented by the editors and scribblers at the high altar of the quality papers who want to flick the dandruff of tabloids off their papal shoulders: why must those tabloid journalists do what every other journalist does, so obviously?

The "state" is the officials and parliamentarians who feel uneasy with an untamed press which is not indebted to its government for subsidies and special favours and will not be restrained from holding public officials up to ridicule.

Questions about the power of the press are hot. Did Basildon man



Black and white, although denounced by the "high priests", Britain's tabloids seem to be doing something right — more young people choose to read them than does the adult population as a whole

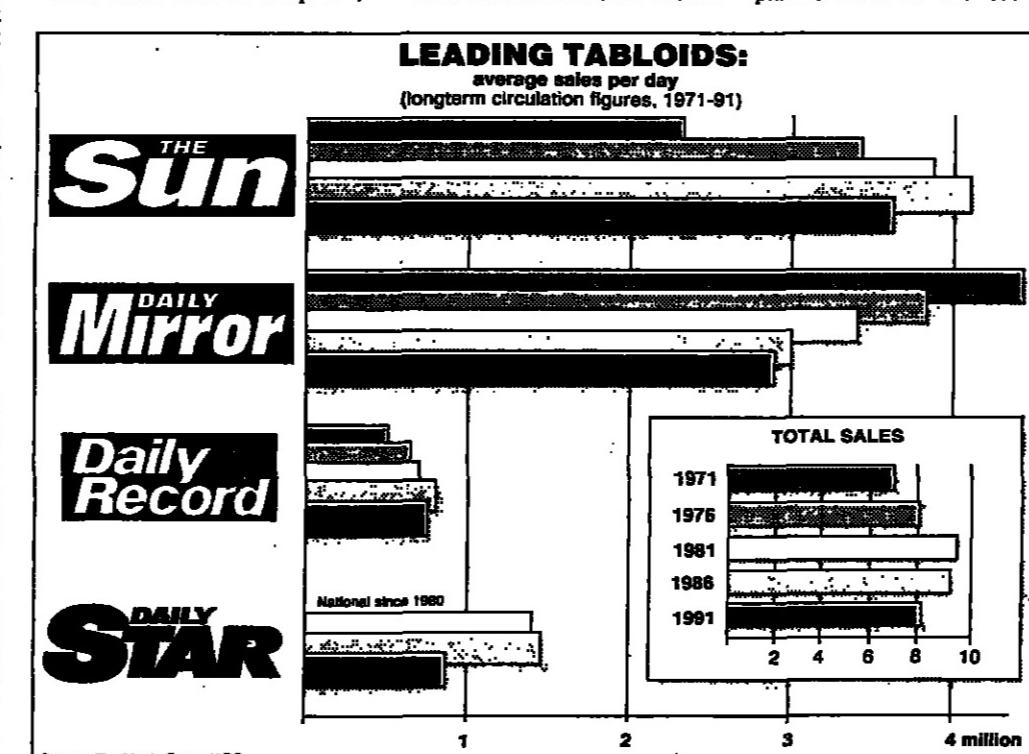
swing the election and is the only influence on his political thinking? The Sun? And if so, did he enter the polling booth like a zombie devoid of all free will? I do not think so. But perhaps I have more respect for Basildon man's intelligence than does the Labour party.

Undoubtedly, the press has power. Undoubtedly, responsibility must go hand in hand with that power. But to paraphrase Pat Chapman, the editor of the *Newspaper of the World*, at the Association of British Editors' seminar: Ethel of Dagenham has a very different view of what constitutes power and responsibility to that of, for instance, Donald Trelford. This makes neither of them right and neither of them wrong. Just different. The intellectual high ground, of course, will award the broadsheet view more column inches than it will give to Ethel of Dagenham, even if Ethel's views are often more cogently expressed.

The broadsheets do the press in this country no good by constantly berating the tabloids for what they see as their excesses. And the regional papers that claim to have a monopoly of the common man's responsibility would do well to remember that complaints against them from the common man to the Press Complaints Commission outnumber those against the tabloids.

Celebrities and politicians may be wary of the British tabloid press, but those with fewer vested interests and some understanding of the business acknowledge that we have the most competitive, pluralistic and diverse press in the world.

Twenty-one national newspapers owned by 11 proprietors, 89 regional dailies, 1,500 weeklies and 7,500 magazines. We have the highest circulation of newspapers per head in the European Community. We circulate 393 copies per 1,000 people compared to, for instance, only 127 in France.



the only daily paper in most American towns is full of verbal diarrhoea written by graduates of right-thinking schools of journalism. Every single word has been objectively balanced out of its brain and pressed into acres of dehydrated prose.

In the past 20 years, American newspapers overall have lost almost three times as many readers as have UK papers. Most of them are in the younger age group, but contrary to current thinking, people between 21-25 years in America may not have lost the reading habit to the television screen. In fact, their reading is increasing, but not of newspapers. Young America is reading more books and magazines instead.

The British tabloids, on the other

hand, seem to be doing something right because more young people choose to read tabloids than does the adult population as a whole.

You may deplore the fact that young people like the fast read of the tabloids. But at least they are reading newspapers and news stories. 50 to 60 a day in *The Sun* (against 60 to 65 a day in *The Independent*, by the way). They are reading properly constructed sentences with verbs (yes, bonking is a verb), in grammatical — if not always the Queen's — English.

And isn't it this often racy, colourful, challenging style of writing that keeps people on the edge of their seats — particularly young people? There is courage in tabloid journalism — sometimes misguided, often reckless but never

unease about privacy and the right of reply. It raised issues and awareness, and it proposed remedies, some of which the very people who espoused them now admit are unworkable.

The Americans have free speech enshrined in their constitution and they cherish it. We have no constitution, no automatic right of free speech. Therefore the British press, like children testing the patience of their parents, push and jostle to see just what is meant by free, until someone says stop. I think — although I am not sure — that I prefer this: it means our rights and freedoms are constantly being tested and examined, not against a rigid constitution but against what is acceptable in a constantly changing society.

In any search for acceptable standards it is inevitable that we run into the question of excess. But the word itself is a value judgment. What is "too much"? How far is "too far"? And who should answer those questions?

In a democracy, obviously the people must answer. And there are enough examples of the reader dictating publishing policy: the *Star* struggling uncomfortably into, and out of, *Sunday Sport's* tacky underwear, or *Sun* readers' reaction to its coverage of the Hillsborough tragedy. Every editor knows in his heart which stories he wished he had not run and if he cannot hear his heart, he can certainly see the size of his mailbag.

Working on the inside of the industry, we can see the rearing being applied by the readers every day. But on the outside, this is not so obvious. Nor, it can be argued, is reader power always enough.

Clearly the media are not exactly like every other product. *The Sun* does have marginally more influence than a baked bean. And for that reason the media need more attention paid to them by the public than does a baked bean. A debate was, and is, necessary.

Right on, John.

This is a condensation of an article which appeared in British Journalism Review. Jane Reed is the director of corporate affairs for News International.

## And now for a quiet life . . .

**The BBC is unlikely to be under threat with John Major in Downing Street, John Simpson believes**

Today programme, and there was the little matter of my daring to call Mr Major's first public meeting "tame".

There was annoyance, too, that during the run-up to the election the 9 O'Clock News should have led with three minutes of a Neil Kinnock speech before dealing with a John Major one; as though the Tories were

German holidaymakers who had put their towel on the first place in the news bulletins every day.

Perhaps the complaint referred to the Tuesday night before polling day, when the Conservatives managed to let their

final climactic rally over-run

and Mr Major failed to finish his speech until 9.06. As if they were a Victorian duke at a

railway station, the critics seemed to think the BBC should have held the news

until they were ready to board.

If you are the governing party of the country and face the possibility of losing an election, little things like these mean a lot. The BBC had

powerful enemies at the top of the party. Of those in Mr Major's previous cabinet who

would probably like to see the BBC dismantled, one,

Kenneth Baker, is now out of

the action. But two other remaining senior cabinet min-

**For all its failings, the BBC has a real hold on the nation's affections**

isters share the former Home Secretary's view.

Yet as I stood in the hallway of Central Office in the early hours of April 10, I could not believe that serious politicians would use trivial complaints as an excuse for breaking the world's best-known broadcasting service on the wheel and distributing its reeking quarters around the country.

We have, after all, been here before. Margaret Thatcher gave the impression of being a greater enemy of the BBC than anyone; yet she had a clear understanding of the way the British public felt about it. At the

Group of Seven summit in Venice she stupefied the foreign journalists who attended her final news conference by launching into a long attack on the BBC.

Afterwards, as we walked

together to the television interview room, I started to defend it. She stopped and laid her

hand on my arm, smiling —

she was warmer and less

imperial in those days — and

the security men behind us

cannoned into one another in

surprise. "My dear, you are

sensitive," she said soothingly;

and then, in a lower voice

which I had to strain to hear:

"Don't you see it's all part of

the game?"

The BBC is an infuriating organisation in all sorts of ways: thoughtless, self-obsessed, sometimes appearing arrogant and at other times cowardly. For most of this century, though, it has provided part of the mortar which had bonded the British nation together. Without the BBC, we would be a less united kingdom. It has given us shared notions of who we are, what we are concerned with, what we find funny.

Except among a few politi-

cians and journalists, it has —

not all her followers have realised it was just a game. In 1986, when American planes bombed Libya from British bases, Norman Tebbit, as the chairman of the Conservative party, launched an attack on the BBC's coverage. I was summoned from an unapprising lunch in the BBC canteen to help with the drafting of a reply.

As soon as I read Mr Tebbit's document I could see it was full of mistakes and unsupported, sometimes defamatory, allegations. The BBC had never previously defended itself vigorously in public like this against government attack, and it was instructive to see what happened.

First, Downing Street began to receive large numbers of letters of complaint from ordinary viewers and listeners. They were especially angry about the attack on Kate Adie, whose courage and reporting skills were as much admired then as now. Second, Mrs Thatcher quickly withdrew her support for Mr Tebbit's campaign. Soon it petered out, and Conservative Central Office was glad to forget it.

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# What it takes to treat young minds in pain

**H**eiping a teenager to cope with anger at a parent's sudden death, supporting a sexually abused child and counselling a family with a violent adolescent are all in a day's work for the child psychotherapist.

There is growing awareness of the damage done to children through abuse and neglect, but behind the headlines there are professionals who pick up the pieces and help frightened children towards a more normal life.

"Child psychotherapists are specially trained to help children who have suffered severe trauma or have been unable to develop trusting relationships with adults," explains Dorothy Judd, the principal child psychotherapist at the Middlesbrough Hospital, London.

"They offer treatment, often over many years, for eating and sleeping problems, violent and destructive behaviour, and the effects of death and divorce. Therapists, using psychoanalytical principles and techniques, encourage children to communicate their fears and experiences through play."

Child psychotherapy has had professional status within the NHS for 40 years, and many early practitioners worked in child guidance clinics to deal with the emotional problems of children, particularly evaques, after the war.

## Widget Finn describes the training that equips a child psychotherapist for the job

The four training schools for child psychotherapists in London and one in Edinburgh. The course is for postgraduates with an honours degree "People usually start child psychotherapy training in their late twenties, often coming from a first career in nursing, teaching or social work," Mrs Judd says. "Students should already have worked with children, and perhaps also have some psychiatric experience."

Every student undergoes personal analysis three or four times a week with an approved practitioner as part of the training. Mrs Judd says: "Through their own analysis students gain insight into their own emotions and needs, which helps them to understand the conflicts in the children they treat."

The cost of analysis, which can be £5,000 a year, has to be borne by the student, and this, Mrs Judd points out, bars many suitable applicants from the profession through lack of funds. Scholar-

ships, however, are available through the Child Psychotherapy Trust, and some regional health authorities offer trainee posts.

The two-year pre-clinical programme has the status of an MA, and students develop their skills through detailed observation of babies and young children. The clinical training is from three to five years when trainee psychotherapists work in the NHS under close supervision, taking on three long-term intensive cases with children of different ages. Trainees also work with parents of children in therapy and a variety of special patients, such as autistic or physically handicapped children.

**F**rancesca Bartlett divides her working week as a child psychotherapist between a baby clinic at a west London health centre, and the children's department of St Bartholomew's Hospital, London.

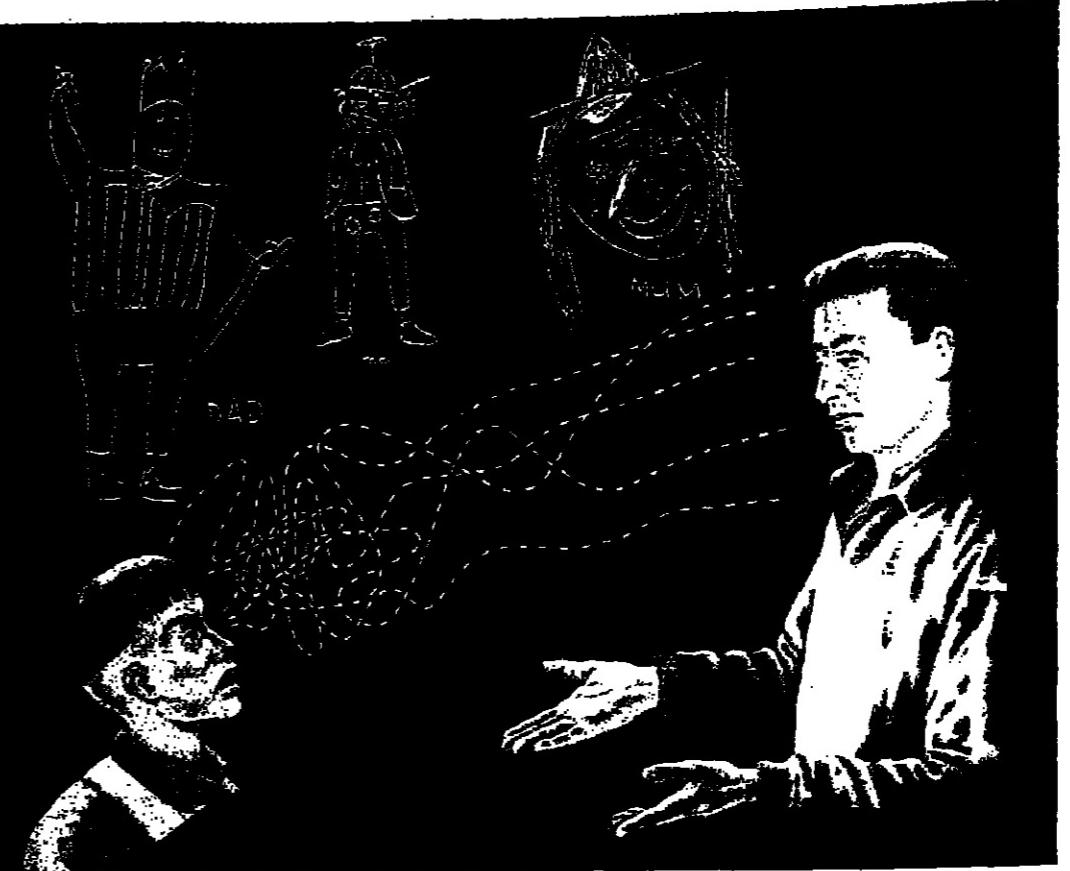
"The posts complement each other," she says. "At the health centre I am working in the community with mums who are referred with post-

natal depression, or with anxieties about their babies' eating and sleeping. At Bart's I work with children in hospital with chronic illness and the staff who are involved in their care."

Miss Bartlett qualified as a child psychotherapist a year ago. While working in a residential home with autistic children she decided to become a child psychotherapist and has worked steadily towards that goal for ten years. Her original training had been in the fine arts. She had to take further A levels and get a first degree before she could study child psychotherapy at the Tavistock Clinic in London.

She says: "Many psychotherapists have an academic background in psychology or psychiatry. I took a BA honours degree at London University in anthropology and linguistics because I felt that such a broadly based subject would increase my understanding of behavioural problems in children."

At the pre-clinical stage of her training she worked in a social services nursery in Camden, north London, helping families where the mothers had come from broken homes and difficult backgrounds. After a five-year break because of family commitments, she embarked on the clinical programme,



combining it with a trainee post in the child guidance centre of a health authority. Only people who are strongly committed, she says, should consider this career.

The training is demanding and strenuous," she says, "and involves considerable financial outlay. You have to work several evenings a week, and often can see patients only in the early morning. It takes

up a lot of emotional and mental energy, and friends and partners have to be understanding."

Many people who take a considerable drop in income. The financial rewards are small. NHS salaries start at £13,000 and there are few posts paying more than £20,000, though some psychotherapists also have private practices.

Child psychotherapy is, however, one of the few careers in which demand outstrips supply.

• Child Psychotherapy Trust, 37 Upper Road, London NW6; Association of Child Psychotherapists, Burgh House, New End Square, London NW3; Training Administrator, Tavistock Clinic, Baldwins Lane, London NW3 SBA; Scottish Institute of Human Relations, 56 Albany Street, Edinburgh EH1 3QR.

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